

Harper calls economic recovery 'extremely fragile'



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HALIFAX • WEEKEND, JULY 31-AUGUST 1, 2009

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pg 17

Man charged over alleged rock-throwing

RCMP A 23-year-old man is facing several charges including assaulting a police officer after the Halifax RCMP say a rock was thrown at a police cruiser early Thursday morning in North Preston.

Police say at 2 a.m., one of their vehicles was proceeding by the North Preston Fire Hall, when a rock was thrown at the car's passenger-side door, resulting in a large dent. Police say the man who threw the rock then ran behind the fire hall and was located hiding in a hole in the ground.

Police charged Travis Tardis with mischief, assault with a weapon, assault of a police officer and three breaches of probation. He was to appear in Dartmouth provincial court to face the charges on Thursday. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local pg 2



Child care centre to close

Metro

Metro will not publish Monday, Aug. 3. The next edition will appear Tuesday, Aug. 4.

On the web

Stay informed:
Go to metronews.ca for your weekend news updates.

Haligonian welcome Wet and windy



Leslie Harry, right, and her daughters Maya, 8, and Naomi, 6, laugh as they walk through the wind and rain on Barrington Street during their visit to Halifax from Toronto on Thursday. Friday's forecast calls for sunny skies and a high of 27 C but the forecast for the rest of the weekend calls for a mixed bag of weather.

Cpl. Wilcox guilty of negligence

COURT MARTIAL A military panel deliberated less than three hours to convict Glace Bay reservist Cpl. Matthew Wilcox of criminal negligence causing death and negligent performance of a military duty in the death of a fellow Canadian soldier.

The four-member panel, however, stayed the manslaughter charge against Wilcox.

The 24-year-old pleaded not guilty to the charges in the death of Cpl. Kevin Megeney, 25, who was shot in a tent on the Kandahar Airfield base in Afghanistan on March 6, 2007.

Megeney, from Stellarton, died about a half-hour later from major blood loss due to a gunshot wound to the right side of his chest.

It's the first time a soldier has been convicted of criminal negligence in the shooting death of another soldier while on tour in Afghanistan.

An elderly female relative of Wilcox shouted "Oh God, no!" upon the verdict's rendering. Wilcox's mother, Ann, his sister, girlfriend and other relatives broke down into heavy sobs. Wilcox was pale but remained expressionless as he has through most phases of this court martial the longest in recent Canadian military history.

Wilcox's sentencing takes place during a hearing from Sept. 9 to 11.

CAPE BRETON POST

Share Your Views

halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Medical stockpile needs \$5.8M shot in arm: Audit

Auditor general concerned with shortages if H1N1 virus spikes

PAUL MCLEOD
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Nova Scotia needs to restock its medicine cabinet with a \$5.8 million trip to the drug store, the province's auditor general said Thursday.

The province's stockpile of medical supplies is low, which could cause a shortage if the number of patients with influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, spikes, according to the most recent audit by Jacques Lapointe and his staff.

The province is now putting millions into ordering new supplies, but because of

the global H1N1 outbreak it could be up to 18 months before orders are met.

"We consider the (stockpiles) an important issue, one that should have actually been dealt with already," Lapointe said. "I can't predict the effect of being short on supplies. I know that it makes life difficult for everybody."

His audit pointed out a 2006 report called for \$7.5 million to build up stockpiles, but as of the swine flu outbreak there was still a \$5.8 million shortfall. He said most departments didn't even request anywhere near the recommended funding.

Flu Outbreak

"It's a question of setting priorities. Why other priorities were set at budget time rather than these priorities, I don't know," Lapointe said.

Former Progressive Conservative health minister Chris d'Entremont said it was impractical to keep fully supplied stockpiles because different pandemic plans called for different supplies. He said the constantly shifting requirements would have led to many supplies expiring and being wasted.

"The requirements and the requests were always different. So do we put money into something that in 12 months time would not be required?" d'Entremont said.

"I think today we would be no further ahead than we were because the equipment we would have bought in 2007 would be expired."

Current Health Minister Maureen MacDonald recommended Thursday all 33 of Lapointe's recommendations. Health officials say there should be enough supplies to get through an outbreak unless an unexpected spike occurs.

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Halifax RCMP say a man was sprayed in the face with what was believed to be bear spray early Thursday morning. Police say the incident happened at about 2:30 a.m. when two men and two women were walking near McDonald's on Sackville Drive. The suspect is described as being in his late teens. **METRO HALIFAX**

Local



Pump prices expected to stay put

The price at the pump is expected to remain the same Friday, according to several media report predictions. The regulated price of regular self-serve gasoline was selling Thursday for 99.4 cents a litre, and that was expected to be unchanged when the province is allowed to set a new price Friday at 12:01 a.m. Gas prices are down over 30 cents from this point last year, when the cost at the pump was \$1.32 per litre.

METRO HALIFAX

YMCA to close doors of daycare

Organization says it does not have enough capital, resources to maintain centre

HILARY BEAUMONT
for Metro Halifax

The YMCA has announced they will close their Dartmouth daycare at the end of October.

YMCA spokesperson Barbara Miller said Thursday the early-child-care centre hasn't been financially sustainable.

"This particular program has had a deficit for the past four years," Miller said. "It's also in a leased facility that is requiring a number of upgrades and we just don't have the capital resources to make those happen in order to bring the building up to standards."

Some of these upgrades would have improved the playground and the building's ventilation system, Miller said.

The YMCA is a non-profit organization that was dealing with a leased space for

10 years.

"We're meeting with each of the families that want to meet with us to determine what their child-care needs are," Miller said.

The daycare serves 56 children and their families. Parents protested the closure outside the centre Thursday morning. Miller said the YMCA told parents "a couple weeks" ago they were considering the closure.

The YMCA employs nine full-time staff at the centre. Termination notices about the closure were sent out Tuesday.

The staff unionized with the Canadian Union of Public Employees in December last year. CUPE representative Naomi Stewart said her organization is suspicious of the YMCA's motives.

"The timing of this closure is highly suspect. This centre has, at least, 18 full-



The YMCA has decided to close this daycare on Waverley Road in Dartmouth at the end of October.

time spaces available," Stewart said in a release. "To say that financial sustainability is a factor when spaces are waiting to be filled is, in our opinion,

not valid."

Andrew Younger, Liberal MLA for Dartmouth East, also questions the closing and is calling on the YMCA to reverse its decision.

"It is outrageous that the YMCA expects parents to find new spots for their children in such a short time," Younger said in a release. "As a community-

based organization, the YMCA should have consulted with parents and the community. The fact that didn't happen is unacceptable."

News in brief

DEATH A 55-year-old man is dead after the tractor he was operating overturned when it left the road in Springhaven, Yarmouth County. Yarmouth Rural RCMP say the accident happened at about 8 p.m. Wednesday on Highway 308. Police say the tractor was pulling a trailer when it left the road.

OPENING Premier Darrell Dexter and Justice Minister Ross Landry helped in the official opening of the new Bridgewater Justice Centre Thursday. The \$16.8 million, 51,800-square-foot facility has four courtrooms, five holding cells and will house 33 staff from court services. **METRO HALIFAX**

Little concern over flu: Survey

PHILIP CROUCHER
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Timing

- The survey was completed three days before the first Nova Scotian died from swine flu.

HEALTH Nova Scotians continue to not lose much sleep over influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, according to a survey released Thursday by Nextbus.

About six in 10 Nova Scotians say they are not very (29 per cent) or are not at all (30 per cent) concerned about themselves or someone in their family getting swine flu in the next month, the survey reports.

Four in 10 surveyed said they were either very (14 per cent) or somewhat (26 per cent) concerned that they will get the virus.

The numbers basically mirror results from a similar poll done by Nextbus in early May.

This recent poll was con-

ducted from July 16 to 21. It surveyed 403 adults and carries a margin of error of 4.9 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

The survey also asked over the past few weeks have you ever been worried that you may be coming down with swine flu, with 10 per cent saying yes, up by four points from the spring.

When asked how likely do you think it is somebody will die from swine flu in Nova Scotia, 25 per cent said very likely, up from 11 per cent.

Report stresses need for pandemic leadership

PAUL MCLEOD
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EMERGENCY Nova Scotia needs to sort out who is going to take charge in the event of an emergency pandemic, an auditor general's report said Thursday.

Auditor General Jacques Lapointe released his audit into pandemic preparedness four months early so that Nova Scotia would have time to fix gaps in its strategy.

Lapointe said there needs to be a clear chain of command in events of extreme pandemic outbreaks to co-ordinate different government departments, district health authorities and outside agencies.

"The dynamic is there for deferred action, delayed decisions and confusion at the height of a crisis," Lapointe said. "Executive council needs to determine where ultimate leadership resides."

Currently Chief Medical Officer Dr. Robert Strang has the ability to co-ordinate pandemic response, but the rules are vague.

Lapointe said a "sense of urgency" is needed, and Thursday Health Minister Maureen MacDonald accepted all of his recommendations.

She said officials began speaking Thursday to iron out a clear chain of command.

Not all government agencies have submitted pandemic plans. Lapointe said the Emergency Management office and department of Health Promotion and Protection need to make sure all parties are prepared in the event of an outbreak.

There are also four vacancies out of seven medical officer of health positions. Dr. Strang said the province is working to fill those roles. "I'm comfortable we have the right processes in place," Strang said.



Lapointe

Suspect arrested after base murder

CRIME An Ontario man wanted in connection with a murder at a Canadian Forces base in Trenton was arrested at the rotary in Port Hastings Wednesday.

Marcus Wilson, 37, of Quinte West, Ont., was arrested near the Canso Causeway at about 6:30 a.m.

A warrant for his arrest was issued on Sunday after James Read, 36, also of

Quinte West, was found in front of a Regina Street home at CFB Trenton. Read later died in hospital as a result of what are believed to be stab wounds.

Wilson now faces first-degree murder charges in relation to Read's death. He was to be escorted back to Ontario Thursday morning.

Cape Breton Regional Police said they were notified

by officers in Ontario that the suspect was believed to be headed east, possibly on his way to Newfoundland.

The said the suspect was spotted near the Irving Big Stop in Auld's Cove, and after RCMP was notified, three officers from Port Hawkesbury arrested the man who was hitchhiking along the road.

CAPE BRETON POST

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What's online today.

Video A British study finds organic produce has little nutritional advantage over non-organic competitors at metronews.ca/canada



Free admission to Maritime Museum

The Maritime Museum of the Atlantic is offering free general admission Monday to thank the community for its support. **METRO HALIFAX**

local 3

Songs for the soldiers

Messages from families to be sent overseas

HILARY BEAUMONT
for Metro Halifax

Families and neighbours of soldiers in the Canadian military will have a chance to send and receive messages from loved ones during this Sunday's Canadian Forces Halifax Rock Fest.

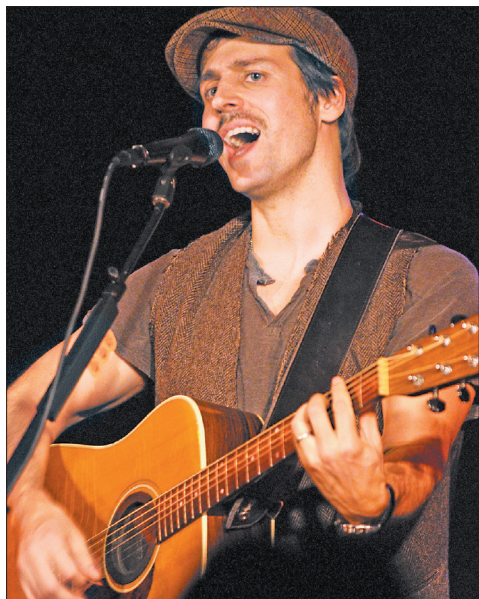
"We are receiving taped messages from the troops in Afghanistan, on board some of our ships, that are going to be broadcast during the concert as well as vice versa," event director Frank Cleysen said. "People are going to be able to convey their wishes and greetings to the troops."

Cleysen said well-wishers should arrive early to ensure they have a chance to record a message. Gates for the show at the Garrison Grounds at Citadel Hill open at 2 p.m.

"The intent was to bring this out to the community, specifically in Halifax, where the forces and the navy are such a big part of the community," Cleysen said. "We all know people that are in the forces and (we would) just like to show them our support."

Through his job, Cleysen said he feels a personal connection with soldiers overseas and families here at home. Overseas loved ones will be able to see the show too. The festival will be taped and sent their way along with messages from Haligonians in an effort to show support to the servicemen and women.

Sunday's music lineup kicks off with Pink Thunder followed by Sloan, Finger Eleven, Our Lady Peace



Our Lady Peace lead singer Raine Maida, shown in this file photo, is going to be performing with his band Sunday at the Canadian Forces Rock Fest at the Garrison Grounds at the Halifax Citadel.

Ticket info

• Tickets for Canadian Forces Halifax Rock Fest are \$75 for general admission and \$65 for those in the military community.

• There are also VIP passes for \$175 and military family packs for \$240. For tickets, phone 1-888-311-9090 or visit www.ticketpro.ca.

and Chickenfoot.

Cape Breton band Pink Thunder was confirmed for the show after winning a contest to find the next great Canadian rock band. The trio is made up of three young women aged 16, 17 and 18.

Cleysen said as many as 15,000 people could rock out on the hill Sunday. He

said ticket sales are going well, but weather will determine last-minute purchases.

"I think it's really exciting to have the Our Lady Peace guys here as well, and I'm looking forward to seeing legends like Sammy Hagar and (Joe) Satriani in Halifax," Cleysen said, in reference to Chickenfoot.

Natal Day party into full-swing across city

EVENTS The city's Natal Day weekend festivities officially kicked off on the Halifax waterfront Thursday with birthday cake, beer and a concert.

This is Halifax and Dartmouth's 114th Natal Day, with events planned through Monday.

Some of the events that are sure to draw large crowds include the fireworks from the Halifax Harbour on Saturday night, beginning at dusk (about 10 p.m.) The rain date set for Sunday, at the same time.

Another highlight is the Natal Day parade on Monday. The parade will cross the Macdonald Bridge on

List of events

• For a complete list of Natal Day events in Halifax and Dartmouth, go to www.natalday.org.

its way from Novalea Drive in Halifax to Sullivan's Pond in Dartmouth.

The parade starts at 10 a.m. and will wrap up before noon, and will feature bands, floats and majorettes.

Another major event during the long weekend is the MacPass Mile on Sunday at the Macdonald Bridge beginning at 9 a.m.

METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

CONCERT An independent music festival planned for Amherst on Saturday has hit the skids and the person organizing it is pointing his finger at the town and the Downtown Amherst Revitalization Society. Richard Clark started organizing the festival several months ago without thinking he'd have any difficulty getting permission from the town to use the bandstand at Victoria Square, but is frustrated the town has thrown roadblocks in his way. Clark said he was told he had to have permission from the revitalization society as well, but when he asked for that permission was told loud music was not something wanted in the downtown during the day. The city cited liability insurance as a major stumbling block with the concert going forward.

AMHERST DAILY NEWS

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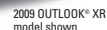
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Computer problems close centres across Nova Scotia Thursday

A government release said they're trying to restore service to Access Nova Scotia and Registry of Motor Vehicles centres. **METRO HALIFAX**

local 5



Finny Thompson sets up a tent at Seaview Memorial Park on Thursday for this weekend's annual Africville Homecoming Reunion Festival. Service Road by Seaview Park will be renamed Africville Road during a ceremony Friday.

Africville honoured

Service Road renamed for historic community

A road in the north end of Halifax will be officially renamed Friday in recognition of the community of Africville.

At Seaview Memorial Park at 5 p.m., Service Road will be renamed Africville Road.

The honour takes place as Africville holds its 26th annual Africville Homecoming Reunion Festival. The reunion kicked off Thursday night with the showing of a documentary that focuses on the lives of three former residents.

"The name Africville speaks to the former resi-

"The renaming ... will allow generations to come to feel a tangible connection to their roots and a sense of belonging."

Irvine Carvery, Africville Genealogy Society

dents and their descendants about home, a place where their ancestors celebrated life in a close-knit community that remains an indelible part of the city's history," Irvine Carvery, spokesman for the Africville Genealogy Society, said in a release.

"The renaming of the road that once led to

Africville will allow generations to come to feel a tangible connection to their roots and a sense of belonging."

Africville is a former community that was home to African Nova Scotians who were relocated by the city of Halifax during the late 1960s.

METRO HALIFAX

City's service dogs get off-leash exercise park

DISABILITY The service dogs of Halifax now have a place of their own to exercise in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

It was announced Thursday that HRM has opened an accessible off-leash for these dogs at the corner of Rainnie Drive and Cogswell Street, adjacent to Centennial Pool.

An HRM release said between 75 and 80 registered, professionally trained service dogs provide assistance to people in HRM with disabilities, such as guide dogs for the blind and "hearing" dogs for the deaf.

The facility will offer a fenced-in area where service dogs can be off-leash and remain close to their handlers. "It's important that hard-working service dogs get a chance to exercise and have some off-leash down time, like any other dog," Helen McFadyen, chair of HRM's advisory committee for persons with disabilities, said in a release.

"The creation of this small exercise facility with provide a safe, place for me to take my guide dog without the worry of losing track of her, like I might in a big park." **METRO HALIFAX**

Pilot unharmed after making 'hard landing'

AVIATION The pilot of a small engine airplane walked away shaken but uninjured earlier this week after what he described as a "hard landing" in town limits.

Mark Capone was at the controls of his personal aircraft and attempting to land on an airstrip he built on his property in Springhill on Wednesday morning when the aircraft veered off course and came to a stop in some nearby bushes.

Citizens near the area witnessed the plane entering town limits from the Southwest, heading over the Herrett Road during its descent and flying what some described as precariously low, as it came in for a landing. "It was just clipping over the tree tops," said one witness.

Neighbours in the area are concerned about the airstrip being near homes and the mishap didn't do much to assuage their concerns. **METRO HALIFAX**

News in brief

TRAFFIC The RCMP Traffic Services in Cape Breton issued an alert for motorists travelling on Highway 105 leading to the Marine Atlantic Ferry Terminal on Thursday. Police said due to the MV Atlantic Vision being out of service, long lineups were being experienced in the

area and local residents were being asked to take another route to get into North Sydney other than Highway 105. Traffic was backed up for several kilometres yesterday, making it impossible for local North Sydney residents to use the route safely. **METRO HALIFAX**

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The Liberals have regained a slight lead in a public opinion poll over the Conservatives. The Ekos survey for the CBC put the Liberals at 34.1 per cent support, up from 32.5 per cent last week. The Conservatives were at 32.5 per cent, down from 32.8 per cent. **REUTERS**

Canada



CSIS to be probed in Abdelrazik case

A government watchdog will launch an investigation into the alleged role the Canadian Security Intelligence Service played in the case of a Montreal man, left, who spent almost six years stranded in Sudan, CBC News Online reports. "We received a complaint from Mr. (Abousfian) Abdelrazik and we've accepted jurisdiction on that complaint," Steven Bittle, a senior adviser for the Security Intelligence Review Committee, confirmed on Thursday. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks during a news conference at a community centre in Adstock, Que., Thursday.

PM keeping cautious on economic recovery

RECESSION With nearly 800,000 Canadians collecting pokey and no end in sight to the jobs crisis, Prime Minister Stephen Harper is keeping his distance from those who say the recession is all but over.

"I know there are some signs of optimism," he said yesterday in Adstock, Que. But, he said, "the so-called recovery at this point is extremely fragile".

Harper was speaking two days after Statistics Canada reported that 778,000 Canadians collect-

ed employment insurance in May, the highest number in more than a decade.

Like Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, Harper steered clear yesterday of agreeing with Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney that the economy would return to growth in the period from July to September.

Instead, Harper said governments must continue their co-ordinated economic stimulus activities to ensure the recession comes to an end.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Record deaths creating doubt

Questions arising over retainment of seized Afghan territory

In all of Afghanistan's fighting seasons, none has been as deadly as this one. Even NATO commanders have struggled to find new words to convey their grief as they cope with the worst month on record for coalition casualties.

News releases announcing the latest deaths arrive almost daily, expressing "great sorrow," "sincere condolences," "heartfelt condolences" and "deepest sympathies" to the families of the slain soldiers.

So far this month, 72 coalition soldiers — including five Canadians — have been killed, many as a result of offensive operations

72 The number of coalition soldiers killed in July in Afghanistan.

by British and American forces in southern Afghanistan to seize territory long under Taliban influence.

The previous monthly high was 46 last August, according to the website icasualties.org.

But will the International Security Assistance Force be able to hold these hard-won regions to ensure insurgents don't come back?

The answer will deter-

mine the fate of the mission and the future of the troubled nation, experts say. And it's a question sure to prompt new questions about the NATO military alliance and Canada's own pledge to withdraw its troops in 2011.

"We are at an important point in Afghanistan's history and NATO's work there, and a testing point," British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said this week.

Britain has lost 22 soldiers in July, pushing its death toll in Afghanistan (191) past the losses suffered in Iraq (179).

But despite those losses, Miliband said at NATO's

Brussels headquarters on Monday that coalition forces must remain.

The offensive push in southern Afghanistan has taken troops into the "belly of the beast," so a rise in violence was expected, said Seth Jones, an expert on Afghanistan with Rand Corp., a U.S. think-tank.

But Jones questions whether coalition forces have enough troops to ensure a long-term presence in these newly seized territories.

"I really don't see the numbers from either NATO or Afghan national security forces for this size territory."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

EnCana boosts reward for pipeline bomber

INVESTIGATION EnCana Corp. doubled Thursday its reward to \$1 million to catch a bomber who is demanding the firm shut down its natural gas facilities in northeastern British Columbia.

The company will also let workers and contractors qualify for the money, a change that may signal that police investigators

are shifting their ideas about who is responsible for the blasts, according to an expert on eco-terrorism.

EnCana boosted the reward at the request of police, who have come up empty-handed in the search for the saboteur responsible for six explosions since October near the communities of Dawson Creek and Toms lake.

A public letter believed to be from the bomber this month warned that the attacks would continue later this year unless EnCana shut down its facilities near Dawson Creek over the next five years.

EnCana has no plans to end its operations, spokesman Alan Boras said.

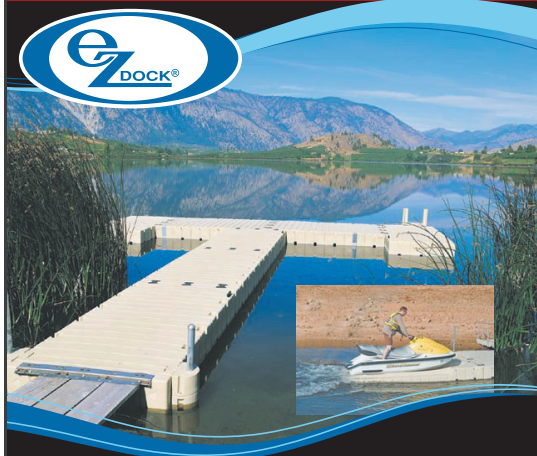
REUTERS

News in brief

GATTI The family of the late Arturo Gatti will have another autopsy performed on the champion boxer's body, his brother said, as Brazilian authorities ruled the death a suicide and released his wife from jail.

Amanda Rodrigues, who was accused of murdering Gatti after he was found dead earlier this month, left the women's prison in Recife, Brazil, yesterday. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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Toronto to begin cleanup

The mountains of garbage that have accumulated in public places around Toronto over the past month will start to disappear on Friday as the city moves to end the strike by municipal employees and clean up the streets, CBC News Online reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Economies will come back in 2010: Board

But outlook for Saskatchewan worse than expected

The economies of all 10 provinces will bounce back from recession next year, forecasters said Thursday, but the view for the remainder of 2009 is mixed with the Conference Board of Canada seeing Saskatchewan falling hard.

The Conference Board said in its summer provincial outlook that it expects four provinces — Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island — to avoid recession completely in 2009.

But it revised its outlook for Saskatchewan, which earlier this year looked set to be the star provincial performer, sharply lower.

It now sees that province's economy shrinking 2.7 per cent in

Weakest

• One of the weakest performers in forecasts was Newfoundland and Labrador, which is battling production slowdowns in the oil industry, a key contributor to the economy of the country's easternmost province.

2009, compared with its spring forecast of 0.2 per cent growth, because of a drought hitting major crops and weak global demand for potash, a key fertilizer ingredient that is one of Saskatchewan's major exports.

"What a difference a few months can make," the Conference Board said. "Major potash production cuts and uncertainty in the

agriculture sector have dimmed the outlook considerably."

Economists at Bank of Nova Scotia, however, saw the future differently and said that all provinces except Saskatchewan will have contracting economies this year.

Scotiabank also cited potash and low precipitation rates as drags on growth in Saskatchewan, but forecast the province would eke out growth of 0.6 per cent this year.

Earlier this year, the bank had said Saskatchewan will likely post no growth this year.

Both the Conference Board and Scotiabank expect Saskatchewan will have country-leading growth in 2010.

REUTERS

Management can rebuild fish stock, researchers say

ENVIRONMENT The world's commercial fisheries, pressured by overfishing and threatened with possible collapse by mid-century, could be rebuilt with careful management, researchers reported Thursday.

In fact, a fisheries expert who in 2006 predicted total global collapse of fish and seafood populations by 2048 is more optimistic of recovery, based on a wide-ranging two-year study by scientists in North and South America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Still, 63 per cent of fish stocks worldwide need to be rebuilt, the researchers said.

"I am somewhat more hopeful that we will be in a better state ... than what

Report

• Of the 10 major ecosystems they studied, the scientists found five marine areas have cut the average percentage of fish they take, relative to estimates of the total number of fish. Two ecosystems were never exploited, leaving three areas as being exploited.

we originally predicted, simply because I see that we have the management tools that are proven to work," said Boris Worm of Dalhousie University in Halifax. He is a co-author of a paper in the journal *Science* and also an author of the pessimistic 2006 report.

REUTERS

Tax plan encounters pushback

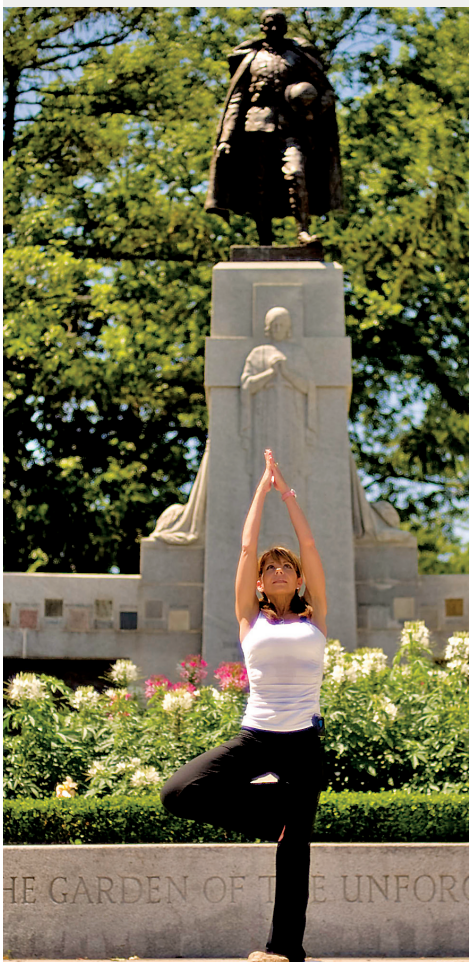
POLITICS B.C.'s surprise announcement that it will follow Ontario and harmonize its provincial and federal sales tax is being met with growing opposition.

Finance Minister Colin Hansen said there were no plans to harmonize even three months ago during a provincial election campaign and that's why the Liberals never raised it as a platform issue in May.

NDP Finance Critic Bruce Ralston said the government flat-out denied it was bringing in harmonization during the election campaign.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oshawa Free yoga



Sherry Sutherland, a yoga trainer and employee at the Ontario Ministry of Revenue, leads a yoga class called Yoga With a Purpose at Memorial Park in Oshawa, Ont. Sherry started the class free of charge in exchange for charitable donations.

Court hears of secret signal

BANDIDOS TRIAL A biker working undercover for police was given a secret signal to use if he felt his life was in danger, a mass murder trial was told Thursday.

"I was actually supposed to kick my shoe off," the informer testified.

The comments from the informer, who can only be identified as "M.H.," came on the fourth and final day of cross-examination by defence lawyer Tony Bryant, who is representing accused killer Marcelo Aravena, 33, of Winnipeg.

Aravena is one of six men who are each charged with eight counts of first-degree murder for the execution-style slaying of eight members of the Greater Toronto Area Banditos in April of 2006.

M.H. told court he became a police undercover agent shortly after returning from the farm of biker Wayne Kellestine, west of London, where the eight bikers were slain.

He said he never actually had to use the secret signal, which was designed to alert nearby officers to come and rescue him when he was secretly recording conversations with Winnipeg members of the Banditos.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

WILDFIRE A B.C. forest fire Thursday forced Blackcomb and Whistler mountains to be evacuated, CBC News Online reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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A dog rescued from a squalid backyard is to be reunited with her owners 1,000 miles away — nine years after she disappeared. The dog was found sleeping in a backyard in Melbourne after an anonymous call to the humane society. A check of the dog's microchip tracked down the original owners in Brisbane. **REUTERS**

World



Rare albino wallaby born in Cyprus

A rare albino wallaby, left, has been born in captivity in Cyprus, becoming the star attraction at a private zoo. The two-month-old marsupial has only just emerged from its mother's pouch, standing about 40 centimetres tall and stark white among a mob of eight larger brown wallabies. The zoo has not thought of a name yet. "We have not been able to determine its sex, it's too early," said the zoo's owner. "It's probably a boy."

REUTERS

Washington Does beer make everything better?



U.S. President Barack Obama sits down for a beer with Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, left, Cambridge, Mass., police Sgt. James Crowley, right, and Vice-President Joe Biden at the White House Rose Garden on Thursday. Crowley arrested Gates while investigating a report of a burglary. Obama inflamed tensions by saying police had "acted stupidly," prompting him to back down from the remark. Obama picked Bud Light, Crowley chose Blue Moon, and Gates had Red Stripe.

Iranian police and protesters clash

Baton-wielding Iranian police fired tear gas on Thursday and arrested protesters mourning the young woman killed in post-election violence who has become a symbol for the opposition to Tehran's hard-line leaders.

The renewed protests show the opposition refuses to be quelled or accept the June 12 hardline election victory despite a security crackdown, the arrest of hundreds of demonstrators and repeated calls from Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The clashes erupted after hundreds of supporters of opposition leader Mir Hos-



sein Mousavi gathered to mourn Neda Agha-Soltan, whose death on June 20 was captured on video and seen by hundreds of thousands on the Internet.

At least 300 mourners were at a ceremony for the 26-year-old music student at Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra cemetery, greeting the opposition leader with chants of "Mousavi we support you," a witness said.

But police forced Mousavi to return to his car and leave. Hundreds later tried to move toward the Grand

Mosala, a large prayer venue in central Tehran. Police were out in force outside the Mosala, having rejected a request by opposition leaders to hold a memorial ceremony there.

"There are thousands of people chanting slogans in favour of Mousavi. Hundreds of riot police ... are trying to disperse them," another witness said.

Protesters set garbage containers alight in nearby streets. At least three protesters were arrested and police smashed the car windows of drivers who honked their horns in support of the demonstrators, a witness said. **REUTERS**

News in brief

BRITAIN A multiple sclerosis sufferer won a legal bid Thursday to force the government to clarify the law on assisted suicide. Debbie Purdy, 46, wanted assurances her husband would not be prosecuted if he helped her go to a euthanasia facility overseas.

NIGERIA Security forces in northern Nigeria on Thursday

captured the leader of a militant Islamic sect responsible for days of unrest which have killed more than 180 people and displaced thousands. Radical preacher Mohammed Yusuf, whose Boko Haram sect wants a wider adoption of sharia (Islamic law) across Africa's most populous nation, was seized after a manhunt in-

volving military helicopters and armed police.

MIDDLE EAST Israel said Thursday it was investigating 100 complaints of misconduct by its forces in a Gaza offensive this year and admitted its troops had fired white phosphorus munitions but not in violation of international law. **REUTERS**

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Comment

Fearless, inspiring heroes



Mona Eltahawy
Global View

ina Turner was wrong — we do need another hero. Especially fearless women.

As a special gift for my 42nd birthday I met two such women in Kuala Lumpur, where we were attending the Women's Islamic Initiative in Spirituality and Equality (WISE), a program aimed at improving the status of Muslim women worldwide.

Seyran Ates, 46, a lawyer and women's rights advocate, was born in Istanbul and has lived in Germany since her family moved there when she was six. She ran away from home at 17 to escape patriarchal traditions and sought refuge in a shelter for battered women.

When she was 21 and liv-

ing at a women's centre, young men of Turkish descent broke in and started firing guns. Ates was shot in the throat and almost

ble to death. The woman next to her was killed.

Two years ago, as she was about to enter a Berlin courtroom with a client filing for divorce, the husband assaulted the two women. That attack, as well as direct threats against her infant daughter, have persuaded Ates — a single mother who is open about the fact that she never married her daughter's father — to close her legal practice.

She continues to fight for women in other ways. She's written several books condemning political Islamic organizations for

their misogyny, the right wing in Europe for its racism and hatred, and the left wing for its silence over the violations of Muslim women's rights.

"I, too, had been a more conservative, headscarf-wearing teenager and it was comforting to trace our parallel moves away from orthodox interpretations of Islam."

Her latest book is called *Islam Needs A Sexual Revolution*. I can't wait for its English translation.

All I can tell you about my second new hero is she is Iranian. Any thing else could jeopardize her safety.

Her life has closely mirrored Iran's ebbs and flows since its 1979 revolution. She was a teenage supporter of that revolution. As a conservative young woman who chose a headscarf she supported its Islamic aspects, which eventually pushed aside the other political strands that had united against the Shah.

But within a decade she became disillusioned with Iran's direction and embraced instead her country's feminist movement. I, too, had been a more conservative, headscarf-wearing teenager and it was comforting to trace our parallel moves away from orthodox interpretations of Islam.

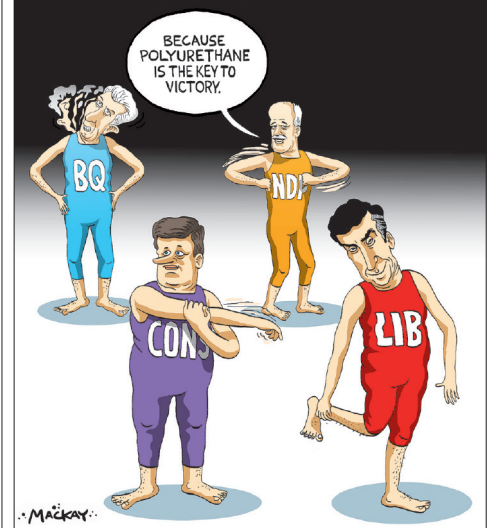
They tried to kill Ates twice. They imprisoned my Iranian hero twice.

Solitary confinement was "like death," she said, and only her spirituality saved her. She is now a "backpack activist" — the regime shut down her organization's office — and creates online a space activists don't have in the "real world."

With women like Ates and my Iranian hero around, we're well on our way to being wise, indeed.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues.

QUESTIONABLE PERFORMANCE ENHANCING ATTIRE HAS EMERGED BEYOND THE SWIMMING POOL...



Worth mentioning

East German Stasi feared Jackson's 1988 concert

Communist East Germany's secret police saw Michael Jackson as a security threat, fearing his 1988 concert next to the Berlin Wall would spark protests, new archive findings showed Thursday.

At a time of rising discontent in East Germany, the Stasi was worried youngsters would try to crash through security barriers to listen to the concert on the other side of the wall, which had separated East and West Berlin since 1961.

"They were concerned disident youths would call

for the wall to fall," Steffen Mayer, a spokesman for the government agency that looks after the Stasi archives, told Reuters.

"This was seen as a potential security threat given the amount of foreign media that would be present."

The Berlin Wall, which symbolized the division between the West and the Communist world, fell little more than a year later, in an era of change triggered by reforms of former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

REUTERS

Michael Jackson

Metro Online Poll Results

75% SAID YES

Do you think a priority list is a fair way to distribute flu vaccine?
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25% SAID NO

Views

Simple solution for stranded commuters

Urban Compass



Paul McLeod
metronews.ca/mcleod

This summer has not been kind to Dartmouth.

Thanks to the Macdonald Bridge being closed most weekends for paving, citizens from the other side of the Halifax Harbour are finding themselves stranded downtown.

Dartmouthians who want to drink have basically two choices — you don't stay out late in Halifax or pay an outrageous cab fare to go around the MacKay Bridge on your way home.

The weird thing is there's only two ways to cross the harbour, by

bridge or ferry (three ways, including swimming if you're HRM Mayor Peter Kelly.) If one goes down, the other should increase

service. It sounds so simple. But because of a lack of communication nothing has worked out.

The Halifax Bridge Commission said to me it told Metro Transit about the closures but has no control over the ferry. Metro Transit said it didn't get enough advance warning and, besides, keeping the ferry open longer would have to be worked out with the union and would be more expensive.

It's a lot easier just to do nothing. The only ones who get screwed are com-

muters. But, of course, there's another option. More people could wrongly choose to drive over to Halifax,

have some drinks and then drive back. To some, it's better than an \$80 cab ride.

All it would take to cut down on drunk driving is to have the ferry go later into the night.

Come to think of it, why isn't that the case all the time? There's absolutely no form of public transportation in the city after 12:30 a.m. The last ferry is at 11:45 p.m.

So every busy bar night there are hundreds of people swarming the down-

town fighting for those scarce few cabs.

A ferry or one or two buses could put a huge dent in everything from assaults, rapes, property damage, drinking and driving, all the way down to public urination.

Just imagine — offering drunken people a safe, reliable way home. Has anyone else thought of this? (A quick Google search reveals that, yes, every other reasonably sized city has.)

So next time your local politician talks about putting money into the newest report or study on how to cut down on crime, ask them why they don't just throw that money into the common sense solution that's staring them in the face.

Paul McLeod is a staff reporter at Metro Halifax. He's currently in rehab for being a political junkie. It's going badly. Contact paul.mcleod@metronews.ca.

Tell us your views by email to halifaxletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrohalifax
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Selection will vary by store. Savings are off our regular prices, unless otherwise specified. Everyday Bay Value, just-reduced, Power Buys, Manager's Specials, licensed departments, Salvani, Vera Wang and Hbc Foundation charity merchandise are excluded. When you see "POWER BUY" or "Manager's Special" you will know we have found an exceptional deal to pass on to you. We may tell you the COMPARABLE VALUE on the price ticket and/or a sign, so you will see the price another retailer in Canada charges or would likely charge for the same or a comparable value item. Quantities of our Power Buys and Manager's Specials and items located in any "Style Outlet" in-store departments are limited and may vary from store to store - no rain checks or substitutions. When we say "PRICE CUT", we mean the existing everyday price is being lowered temporarily. See in-store for details.

Canada's dollar strengthened Thursday as upbeat economic data as well as higher commodities prices helped whet investor appetite. During the day, the Canadian dollar rose as high as \$1.0803 to the U.S. dollar, or 92.57 cents US, after two straight North American sessions of decline. **REUTERS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

GOLD Barrick Gold Corp reported a stronger-than-expected quarterly net profit Thursday, giving its shares a boost, while the company's forecasted lower mining costs in the quarters ahead. Barrick

also maintained its production forecasts for 2009 and 2010 and said its key development projects were progressing on schedule.

OIL Second-quarter profit at Imperial Oil tumbled 81 per

cent on lower energy prices, maintenance outages and weak refining results, the company said Thursday. Net income fell to \$209 million, from year-earlier \$1.15 billion.

UNEMPLOYMENT The number

of Americans collecting long-term unemployment aid fell to the lowest in three months in mid-July, according to government data that implied a slowing pace of layoffs as the economy stabilizes.

REUTERS

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Weak Q2 ends Petro-Can's run

Petro-Canada closed the curtain Thursday on more than three decades as a flagship oil company with a 95 per cent drop in profit and a warning that its refining business faces tough times for the rest of this year.

Set up in the mid-1970s by then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau as a window into an industry then dominated by U.S. companies, Petro-Canada is set to be merged into Suncor Energy Inc on Saturday after a \$22.5-billion takeover.

The deal closes amid weak conditions in the oil patch. Layoffs began this week, with an undisclosed number of senior executives being informed of their status in the new Suncor, which will be

Canada's biggest oil company. The companies struck the deal in March as the industry struggled with falling commodity prices and the credit crunch.

In his last conference call with analysts and reporters to discuss Petro-Canada's quarterly results, chief executive Ron Brenneman did not say how many employees would lose their jobs. The firms are aiming for \$300 million in annual cost savings.

"Our focus is more on working our way down through the various levels of the organization and trying to get to people as quickly as we can to provide some certainty about where their future lies," said Brenneman. **REUTERS**

MasterCard, Visa's quarterly profit beats analysts' forecasts

CREDIT MasterCard Inc, the world's second-largest credit card network, reported better-than-expected quarterly earnings Thursday as it raised fees charged to banks and cut expenses, sending its shares up 6.5 per cent.

The company's larger rival, Visa Inc, also reported better-than-expected quarterly earnings on Wednesday, helped by lower expenses.

But MasterCard Chief Financial Executive Robert



Selander said the downturn in consumer spending would make it difficult for the company to meet its target of average annual revenue growth of 12 per cent to 15 per cent. **REUTERS**

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Kellogg marks high quarterly earnings, raises '09 forecast

FOOD Kellogg posted a higher-than-expected quarterly profit and raised its full-year earnings forecast Thursday as costs for energy and grains eased while price increases helped lift revenue.

The maker of Frosted Flakes and Pop-Tarts has seen an increase in sales as consumers eat more at home. Kellogg also raised prices to cope with higher costs for raw materials.

The company said it expects commodity costs to rise about four per cent for the year, but down from the 10 per cent rise seen in 2008. **REUTERS**

Danish soccer player wakes from coma after lightning strike

FC Nordsjaelland defender Jonathan Richter woke up from an induced coma Thursday, 10 days after he was struck by lightning during a reserve soccer game. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

13

Sports

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONWS.CA

Swimming's suit problem balloons

Field of Play

Scott Russell

metronews.ca/fieldofplay

Swimming has a problem. The new polyurethane suit, ubiquitous at the 13th World Championships in Rome, is leading to a bevy of records, but it doesn't fit the true spirit of competition.

Many sports have been through these choppy waters. Hockey's advances in padding and carbon fibre sticks have made the game faster, allowed harder hits and more dangerous shots. Modern tennis racquets and golf clubs have mammoth striking surfaces. But are the players in these games any more skillful?

That's why FINA, the international governing body of aquatic sport, is putting an end to the madness and

declaring that as of 2010 the plastic flotation device, worn by most of the record breakers, will be going out of style.

There are few dissenters. A sense of embarrassment pervades in Rome. World records are tumbling mostly thanks to the skin suit.

Many believe FINA allowed its use here because the manufacturer of one model is a major sponsor of the meet. The athletes, some would argue, have been forced to cram themselves into the suits in order to keep pace — uncomfortable as that may be.

One Canadian team member marvelled at the poolside odour. "It smells like a kiddies birthday party — kind of like a bunch of balloons."

Indeed, that's what the swimmers look like when they come out of the water ... like a squadron of black balloons. They walk awkwardly and immediately unzip themselves so they can breathe again. They are so uneasy about wearing

the suits that many accomplished stars like Libby Trickett of Australia black out the logo or use accreditation cards to cover it up during television interviews in order to protect their regular sponsors.

Most disturbing is the fact that Paul Biedermann of Germany, the man who has ended Michael Phelps domination in the pool by winning the 200-metre freestyle, faced few questions about his spectacular victory and dozens about his chosen swim apparel.

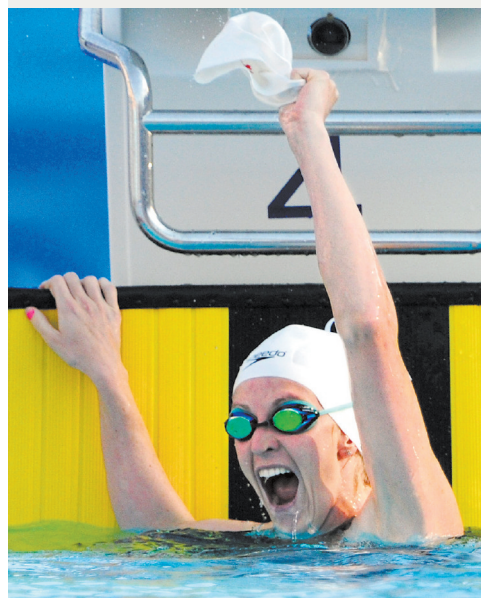
"I'm kind of sad the talk is all about the suit," Biedermann lamented. "For me it's all about the swimming and today I am the fastest."

It all leaves the whiff of something slightly spoiled.

Swimming is supposed to be about the race. Right now it's more about the suit. That will forever leave an asterisk on these World Championships.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Swimming World record



Annamay Pierse of Vancouver reacts after setting a world record in the women's 200m breaststroke swimming semifinal at the World Championships Thursday in Rome.

Sports in brief

BASEBALL Sluggers Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz, who helped the Boston Red Sox end an 86-year World Series title drought in 2004, tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs in 2003. The New York Times reported on Thursday. Ortiz and Ramirez were among the 104 Major League Baseball players who tested positive in what was meant to be confidential testing, the Times said, citing unidentified lawyers with knowledge of the results.

GOLF Tiger Woods' British Open hangover continued at the Buick Open on Thursday as the world No. 1 laboured to an opening round one-under 71 on one of his favourite layouts.

OLYMPICS Organizers of next year's Winter Olympics in Vancouver, facing a potential budget crunch, said on Thursday they want employers to lend them up to 1,500 short-term workers for the Games. Similar worker-loan programs have been used in past Olympics, but organizers of the Games acknowledged their plan was bigger and said it reflected "the realities of the recession."

REUTERS

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Halifax's John Flemming takes his seven-point lead atop the Carquest Pro Stock Tour into this weekend's race at Raceway Park in Oyster Bed Bridge, P.E.I. Flemming has a narrow lead ahead of Shawn Tucker of Fredericton, N.B. **METRO HALIFAX**

Tough mark to beat

Four-minute barrier unbroken at MacPass Mile

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Macdonald Bridge is still waiting for its very own Miracle Mile, a feat now 15 years in the making.

Runners will once again look to crack the elusive four-minute barrier in the 15th annual MacPass Mile on Sunday starting in Halifax. The Macdonald Bridge's uphill-downhill route, paved surface and high winds make it especially hard to duplicate Roger Bannister's first "Miracle Mile" in 1955.

"When you throw in an uphill early on, it's pretty easy to get into trouble on that," said Halifax native Robbie Kitz, who will be

"It would take a very impressive run."

Robbie Kitz

participating in his fourth Bridge Mile. "There are always a few people really suffering by halfway and there's not any time (in the mile) to come back from that."

Kitz's fastest time in the MacPass Mile was 4:18. He is ranked third in the elite class heading into the race. The top two runners, Matt Lincoln of Scarborough, Ont., and Adam Kellar of Hampton, N.B., both have four-minute credentials.

Lincoln's personal-best times — 3:38 in the 1,500

metres and 3:59 for a flat mile — are world-class, while Kellar's personal-best of 3:47 in the 1,500 isn't far behind.

But it's going to take a special day to surpass Jamie Blanchard's MacPass Mile record of 4:02 set in 2002. Kitz said it would be "awfully tough" to pull off four minutes, but said the running community will be dazzled if it happens.

"It would take a very impressive run," said Kitz, a former cross country runner at Queen's. "We've had some pretty big names run this thing and not very close to four minutes."

The open miles start at 9:15 a.m. while the elite miles start at 10:45 a.m. (female) and 11:10 a.m. (male).

Rainmen Teaching kids skills



Halifax Rainmen forward Eric Crookshank talks with kids at the Premier Basketball League team's summer skills camp at Citadel High yesterday. Rogers Wireless announced a two-year title sponsorship agreement with the Rainmen yesterday that will support the team's community involvement and game-day operations.

Sports in brief

HOCKEY Former Halifax Wolverines junior A goalie Dustin Slade has resurfaced with the Laredo Bucks of the Central Hockey League. Slade, a former Western Hockey

League all-star, hasn't played since his last game in Halifax in 2006-07.

HOCKEY Former Dalhousie Tigers centre Chad McCaffrey has signed with the East Coast

Hockey League's Stockton Thunder. McCaffrey, 24, was the Tigers' top scorer last season, scoring 13 goals among 32 points in 28 games.

METRO HALIFAX

Herd give former star another shot

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads are hoping Matt Stoddard proves to be a diamond in the rough at training camp.

The Porters Lake native and former top prospect is scheduled to be on the ice at Cole Harbour Place in late August on a conditional tryout. If he makes the Mooseheads, they owe a draft pick to his current team, the Saint John Sea Dogs.

Stoddard, a second-round pick (35th overall) in 2006, is a former major

midget all-star with the Cole Harbour McCains and has 128 games experience in the QMJHL.

"I hear a lot of good things about him from the coaches he's had in the past," said Mooseheads head coach and general manager Cam Russell. "He's a skilled guy, a hard-working guy, a character player. We're hoping he can help us out."

A six-foot, 182-pound centre, Stoddard, 19, is known as a playmaker and could help the Mooseheads offensively, although he only

had 15 points in his best season in the Q.

The Mooseheads have also heightened their search to find a backup for goaltender Mathieu Corbeil by bringing in Jonathan Connelly from the Lewiston Maineiacs on a similar conditional tryout.

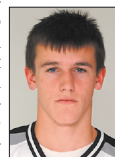
The 18-year-old is a former fifth-round pick who played for the Atlantic under-17 team in 2007.

Eleven goalies are tentatively scheduled to report to camp.

"We'd love for a goaltender to come out of training camp and make the team," Russell said.

"I'd hate to have to trade for a goaltender. We've invited enough guys, so hopefully one of them will step up and push Corbeil."

Russell also said he has given defenceman Richard Greer a conditional tryout with the Montreal Junior.



Matt Stoddard

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3	12:00 PM	Mainland Commons	Quebec	vs New Brunswick 2
4	12:00 PM	Beazley	Manitoba	vs Ontario
5	4:00 PM	Mainland Commons	Alberta	vs Nova Scotia
6	5:45 PM	Beazley	British Columbia	vs Newfoundland and Labrador
7	8:30 PM	Beazley	Quebec	vs Dartmouth
Friday, August 21, 2009				
8	9:00 AM	Beazley	New Brunswick 2	vs Manitoba
9	12:00 PM	Mainland Commons	Newfoundland and Labrador	vs New Brunswick
10	12:00 PM	Beazley	Ontario	vs Dartmouth
11	3:00 PM	Beazley	New Brunswick	vs Alberta
12	4:00 PM	Mainland Commons	Nova Scotia	vs British Columbia
13	7:00 PM	Mainland Commons	Manitoba	vs Quebec
14	7:00 PM	Beazley	Dartmouth	vs New Brunswick 2
Saturday, August 22, 2009				
15	9:00 AM	Mainland Commons	Ontario	vs Quebec
16	9:00 AM	Beazley	Newfoundland and Labrador	vs Alberta
17	12:00 PM	Beazley	Dartmouth	vs Manitoba
18	12:00 PM	Mainland Commons	New Brunswick 1	vs Nova Scotia
19	2:45 PM	Beazley	New Brunswick 2	vs Ontario
20	2:45 PM	Mainland Commons	Alberta	vs British Columbia
21	5:30 PM	Beazley	3rd Pool A	vs 2nd Pool B
22	8:15 PM	Beazley	3rd Pool B	vs 2nd Pool A
Sunday, August 23, 2009				
23	9:30 AM	Beazley	1st Pool A	vs Winner Game #21
24	12:30 PM	Beazley	1st Pool B	vs Winner Game #22
25	3:30 PM	Beazley	BRONZE MEDAL GAME	
26	7:00 PM	Beazley	GOLD MEDAL GAME	

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For more on the tryouts coming to camp, visit Matthew Wuest's Q Files blog at: metronews.ca/qfiles

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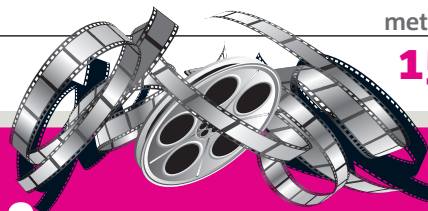
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Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Wise guys

Pg 17



To divulge too much about Funny People's strange, meandering narrative would spoil the picture's many pleasures. Adam Sandler gives a career-best performance, our reviewer writes, in a movie that's much more than another sensitive guy romp.

Movies

Pg 18



Fifty Dead Men Walking intense and breathtaking.

Music

Pg 20



The Decemberists throw critics, fans into a flurry.

Television

Pg 22



Soap opera, action, sci-fi ... Just what is Defying Gravity?

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16 movies & entertainment

Movies

★★★★★ A CLASSIC; ★★★★★ EXCELLENT; ★★★ GOOD; ★★ FAIR; ★ POOR

Flavours of Julia Child

Legendary chef's editor praises Streep for role

ANNE BRODIE
for Metro Canada



Judith Jones says Meryl Streep "got" Julia Child in the new film *Julie & Julia*.

Jones ought to know. She first met Child — the future giant of American cooking — in 1961 when she became her cookbook editor. It was a friendship that spanned five decades until Child's death in 2004.

"Meryl was terrific. I think it's uncanny, she does become Julia," Jones says about the actress. "She has studied facial expressions and it's hard to pinpoint them all, but it's true Julia."

"Julia was big and awkward and in those days, it was a liability for a woman to be that tall. And she scuffled a bit with her feet. Meryl Streep gets all of that. It has something to do with what she was. She wasn't going to let it handicap her; she turned it into



Meryl Streep stars as legendary cook Julia Child in *Julie & Julia*, in theatres next week.

an asset. She had such a presence."

Jones — who discovered *The Diary of Anne Frank* in the reject pile of a Paris publishing house — took a chance on Child's landmark cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, which at the time was gathering dust at the publishing house she worked for.

Jones, who is now 85, championed it against the prevailing wisdom of the day; that women wouldn't

Movie feature

cook elaborate food in their homes. The book was a smash hit.

Jones became Child's personal editor, cheerleader and kitchen aide, helping her perfect recipes in her home kitchen in Cambridge, Mass.

"I was the perfect person for her book," Jones smiles. "I was looking for such a book and it seemed like a godsend. No one wrote that way about cooking, to truly explain ingredients, techniques and all of that."

"You can't just cook in the French way particularly because there are techniques and rules."

"She was always so disdainful of what she called 'the flimsies.' I am convinced of one thing, there are people who simply don't have the genes to cook. You can expose them to food all you want, they're the 'flimsies.'"

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At a glance

Funny People ●●●●●, Fifty Dead Men Walking ●●●●●,
500 (Days) of Summer ●●●●●, Humpday ●●●●●

Movies

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

It's funny, and art too

Funny People

Director: Judd Apatow

Stars: Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen

Classification: 14A

Rating: ●●●●●

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Funny People's deceptively simple title speaks volumes about its content. On one hand, writer/director Judd Apatow's film is indeed filled with humorous humans of every persuasion. But underneath its lighthearted, laugh out loud exterior lurks a far darker, more complex treatise on how amusingly out of touch and lost we as a culture really are.

Apatow regular Seth Rogen plays a likeable shlub named Ira, a struggling stand up comedian in L.A. who, while waiting his turn on stage at a local club, encounters slumming Hollywood comedy legend George Simmons (equally revered funnyman Adam Sandler, who gives a career best performance here).

Haunted and seemingly burned out, George takes a shine to Ira and invites him to work for him, writing jokes for his act and managing his day to day affairs.

Except, as it turns out, George is suffering from a



Seth Rogen, left, and Adam Sandler play disciple and master in Funny People.

rare blood disorder and hasn't much time left to live.

As Ira becomes his idol's disciple — and, eventually, friend — a twist of fate steers their "bromantic" bond in an unexpected direction, leading to an almost surreal final hour that introduces George's sexy ex-lover Laura (Leslie Mann) and her macho Aussie hubby Clarke (Eric Bana).

To divulge any more about Funny People's strange, meandering narrative would spoil the picture's many pleasures,

chief among them that the audience has absolutely no idea where it's going at any given time.

This is Apatow's masterpiece: A hilarious, poignant observational film that's closer to vintage Woody Allen than anything that's ever bore his crowd pleasing brand before.

Clocking in at almost 2½ hours, the extra running time gives the filmmaker free rein to fully flesh out his eccentric characters, ensuring that even the smallest roles (like Aubrey Plaza's sardonic nerd

girl/love interest) serve to enrich the story.

Filled with the expected raunchy dialogue, nudity and penis jokes — but laced with a bitter cynicism — Funny People isn't just another sensitive guy romp, it's the modern comedy as an artform ... and one of the best movies of the year so far.

On the web

For movie photos, trailers and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies.

Humpday hits mark

Humpday

Director: Lynn Shelton

Stars: Mark Duplass, Joshua Leonard

Classification: STC

Rating: ●●●●●

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Have you ever made a pact with someone you instantly regretted? Did you ever feel innately obligated to carry through on that contract at whatever cost? If so, you probably still have nothing on the characters in Humpday.

When a bearded bohemian (Joshua Leonard) suddenly pops back into the settled life of his now-married college pal (Mark Duplass), the pair find

themselves at an impromptu party where the topic turns to Humpfest, an amateur porn festival (which actually exists!).

Inebriated and not thinking clearly, the duo agree to participate in the ultimate art film — two straight dudes having sex.

As the film builds toward the uncertainty of the climax, filmmaker Lynn Shelton expertly captures both characters' struggle with self-conceptions and their own male stubbornness.

Heavily improvised, the performances are convincing and provide this comedy the gravitas and subtle charm it needs to hurdle over its own high-concept. Humpday successfully takes the male-comedy to places that films like I Love You, Man dare not go.

chillin'

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Movies

★★★★ A CLASSIC; ★★★★★ EXCELLENT; ★★★ GOOD; ★★ FAIR; ★ POOR

An intense experience

Fifty Dead Men Walking

Director: Kari Skogland
Stars: Jim Sturgess, Ben Kingsley
Classification: STC
Rating: ★★★★★

CHRIS ALEXANDER
 for Metro Canada

By her own admission, writer/director Kari Skogland took several liberties with *Fifty Dead Men Walking*, her filmed adaptation of political informant Martin McGartland's autobiography.

But, really, that's OK. Movies are meant to be an impression of reality, and by the time Skogland's white knuckle picture fades to black, we feel like we've sprinted a mile in McGartland's blood-stained shoes just the same.

The film begins in the wilds of northern Canada, with a grizzled, bearded McGartland (21's Jim Sturgess) fending off a bru-



Jim Sturgess stars in *Fifty Dead Men Walking*.

tal attack by a masked gunman that leaves him bullet riddled and gasping for life. As the camera settles on his wide eyes, we are thrust 11 years into the past with a younger, freewheeling McGartland running around Belfast as the tensions related to "the troubles" escalate around him.

Soon, McGartland finds himself embroiled in the machinations of the IRA

and assumes the role of informer for British Intelligence (exemplified by Sir Ben Kingsley as McGartland's smooth U.K. contact). As McGartland gets deeper into his double life, tensions mount and it's only a matter of time before his violent, IRA associates discover the truth of his deception.

Some critics have complained that the film is far

too "entertaining" to suit the grim subject matter, and that politics take a back seat to the director's glossy cinematic conceits. Make no mistake; *Fifty Dead Men Walking* is a rollicking, full throttle entertainment, as vital a thriller as it is as a gut-wrenching melodrama.

But its accessibility never once betrays the bitter reality of its brutal backdrop. We never once feel removed from the IRA/Unionist conflicts and their devastating effect on the Northern Irish populace.

What Skogland has wisely chosen to do, however, is focus her narrative squarely on McGartland's stranger-than-fiction story and, in turn, on Sturgess' breathtaking performance. There's a level of ferocity on display here that none of the young actor's previous roles even hint at. This is Oscar calibre stuff all the way.

• For *Fifty Dead Men Walking* photos, a trailer and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies

Duo brighten up Days of Summer

(500) Days of Summer

Director: Marc Webb
Stars: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Zoëy Deschanel
Classification: STC
Rating: ★★★★★

NED EHRBAR
 Metro World News

REVIEW It seems preposterous that the only thing a relationship movie has to do to seem original and inventive is tell the story from the guy's perspective, but that's Hollywood.

The audience gets the guy's perspective and more in (500) Days of Summer, thanks to a non-linear storytelling structure that recounts a love affair far more effectively than a chronological retelling ever could.

First-time director Marc Webb pulls out as many stops as he can think of, tossing in homages to classic films, a precocious

youngster dispensing relationship advice, animation and one inspired musical sequence sure to make Hall and Oates popular with a whole new generation of fans.

But what's most impressive is that with all vintage sneakers and ironic detachment set to a Smiths-heavy soundtrack, the movie doesn't fall off into a twee abyss.

For that, primary credit goes to the lead actors. As the titular Summer, Zoëy Deschanel does great work playing the idealized indie girlfriend — "quirky" seems too dismissive.

But the real star here is Joseph Gordon-Levitt, who has been quietly building an impressive dramatic resume in films like *Brick* and *Mysterious Skin*.

Here, he comes into his own as a full-fledged leading man, making even self-indulgent moping seem compelling.

"The battle of the sexes is fought by two tough foes in this sassy, sexy screwball comedy! It's wicked fun."

Matt Sullivan, IN TOUCH WEEKLY

Katherine
HEIGL



Gerard
BUTLER



the ugly truth

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Screen Times

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(PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:15-9:50

Aliens in the Attic (PG)

Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-3:35-6:50-9:45

Brüno (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:30-4:05-7:10-9:55 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed 12:30-4:05-9:55 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:30-4:05-7:10-9:55**Funny People** (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:55-12:10-3:25-3:45-6:45-7:05-9:55-10:05**G-Force** (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo, No Passes Fri 12:55-3:50-6:45-9:30 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:05-3:50-6:45-9:30 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 1:05-3:50-7:10-9:30**G-Force in Disney Digital 3D** (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo, No Passes Fri 11:50-2:20-4:45-7:05-9:20 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo, No Passes Sat 11:50-2:15-4:45-7:05-9:20 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo, No Passes Sun 11:50-2:20-4:45-7:05-9:20 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 12:35-3:6-45-9:20**The Hangover** (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:55-4:20-7:15-10**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:45-12:45-3:15-4:10-6:50-9:10-10:05**Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs 3D** (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-7-9:40**My Sister's Keeper** (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:25-4:10-6:45-9:35**Orphan** (STC) Dolby Stereo,

No Passes Fri-Sun 12:50-3:55-6:50-9:45 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 12:50-3:55-6:50-9:45

The Proposal (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:05-4:15-7:15-10**Public Enemies** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:3-25-7-10-10**Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen** (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:15-4:10-8:30**The Ugly Truth** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:55-9:50

IMAX

190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince: An IMAX 3D Experience** (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes, Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 11:55-3:20-6:40-9:55

OXFORD

THEATRE

6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (PG) Fri-Thu 4-8

PARK LANE

5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860**Brüno** (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-3:10-7**Funny People** (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:30**G-Force** (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:45-2:50-6:45-8:50**G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra** (14) Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 11:59 (midnight)**Grease** (STC) Stadium Seating Wed 7**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 3-6:25-9:35**The Hurt Locker** (STC)

Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:45

Orphan (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:35-3:25-6:40-9:20 Stadium Seating Wed 12:35-3:25-9:20 Stadium Seating Thu 12:35-3:25-6:40-9:20**Predator** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 11:30**Public Enemies** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9**The Ugly Truth** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:50-3:45-7:10-9:40-11:45 Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 12:50-3:45-7:10-9:40

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the Attic (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 2:15-6:45-9 Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 1:10-3:30-6:45-9 Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 2:15-6:45-9**Funny People** (14) Stadium Seating Fri 2:30-6:40-9:45 Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 12:15-3:20-6:40-9:45 Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 2:30-6:40-9:45**G-Force** (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 2:10-7-9:15 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3-7-9:15 Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 2:10-7-9:15**G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra** (14) Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 12:01 (midnight)**The Hangover** (14) Stadium Seating Fri 2:50-7:10-9:30 Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 12:45-3:45-7:10-9:30 Stadium

Seating Tue-Thu 2:50-7:10-9:30

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 2-6:30-9:40 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Mon 12-3:15-6:30-9:40 Stadium Seating, No Passes Tue-Thu 2-6:30-9:40**Orphan** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 2:20-6:50-9:40 Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 1:05-3:50-6:50-9:40 Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 2:20-6:50-9:40**The Ugly Truth** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 2:45-7-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat-Mon 1-3:40-7-9:20 Stadium Seating Tue-Thu 2:45-7-9:20

DARTMOUTH

DARTMOUTH CROSSING

145 Shubie Dr., 902-481-3251

The Hangover (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:35-3:50-7:15**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:30-12:30-3:20-4:15-6:20-8-9:25**Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs** (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:25-1:40-4:10-6:50-9:30**Orphan** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-9:40**The Proposal** (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:20-9:25**Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 11:50-3-6:25-9:45**The Ugly Truth** (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12-2:30-4:50-7:20-10:05

TRURO

TRURO

20 Treaty Trail, 902-895-8020

Aliens in the Attic (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 2:20-7:10-9:25 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:20-2:40-7:10-9:25 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2:20-7:10-9:25**Funny People** (14) Stadium Seating Fri 2:40-6:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2:40-6:30-9:20**G-Force** (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 2:30-6:45-9:10 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-2:45-6:45-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2:30-6:45-9:10**G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra** (14) Stadium Seating,

No Passes Thu 11:59 (midnight)

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 2-6:35-9:35 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 12-3-6:35-9:35 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2-6:35-9:35**Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs** (G) Stadium Seating Fri 3-6:50 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-3:10-6:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3-6:50**Orphan** (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 2:10-6:55-9:35 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:15-2:55-6:55-9:35 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2:10-6:55-9:35**Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9**The Ugly Truth** (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 2:50-7-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-2:30-7-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2:50-7-9:20

BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER

349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

Aliens in the Attic (PG) Fri 2:25-6:40-8:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:40-6:40-8:50 Mon-Thu 2:25-6:40-8:50**Funny People** (14) Fri-Thu 2:15-6:30-9:40**G-Force** (STC) No Passes Fri 2:10-7-9:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 1-3:15-7-9:10 Mon-Thu 2:10-7-9:10**Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince** (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 2-8**Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs** (G) Fri 2:30-6:35 Sat-Sun 1:40-4-6:35 Mon-Thu 2:30-6:35**Orphan** (STC) Fri 2:20-6:45-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:35 Mon-Thu 2:20-6:45-9:35**Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen** (STC) Fri-Thu 8:55**The Ugly Truth** (STC) Fri 2:05-7:15-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:45-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 2:05-7:15-9:50

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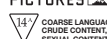
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Music

The hazards of love

The Decemberists take an unusual musical departure

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Unexpected musical pairings don't always fly when they're first realized.

There are those, of course, that just never take off, and for good reason — like Scarlett Johansson and Tom Waits covers, or the embarrassing mid-'80s Bowie/Jagger collaboration. But others, like Wilco and eclectic experimentation on Yankee Hotel Foxtrot, and Alison Krauss-brand bluegrass with the Zeppelin rock vox of Robert Plant, however doubted, end aptly up in the musical stratosphere.

The Decemberists' latest album *The Hazards of Love* takes up company with the latter. In an unanticipated departure, the Portland, Ore., band divorces its spirited folk rock repertoire for

a musically amalgamated concept album, initially intended as a stage musical.

The album recalls the tale of a lady called Margaret and her mystical, often sexual forest exploits. After falling in love with forest-dweller William, she comes under scrutiny by his mother, the Queen of the forest, who fails to cease Margaret's abduction by a dangerous villain, The Rake. William searches for and reunites with Margaret, and they reignite their love before dying, together.

Colin Meloy, singer and songwriter for the band, understands the risk of taking such a conceptual diversion, but says the album's just not intended for everybody. "I can totally understand why this record would not be to someone's taste. I knew from the very beginning this was going to be a pretty polarizing

record and that some people would hate it and some people will love it."

Hazards has polarized the critics, that have produced largely mixed reviews of the album. But Meloy maintains his band is just a quick and easy target because of the early praise it's garnered. And estranging critics or The Decemberists' fans is fine by Meloy. "If we do alienate people, they would be the sort of people that would be restricting our creativity anyway."

It's all part of the solid precedent he says the band has set for itself. "People are welcome to come along," he says, "But we're going to be doing what we want and not kowtowing to accessibility or tastes."

Non-conformity is as present in *Hazards'* format as its sound. Added to the folk music the band is noted for, there are sure signs of met-

al, progressive rock and hard rock on the album, a testament to Meloy's dissent against the tension between folk and metal.

"I think they're more akin than some people give them credit for, especially when you're dealing with classic metal from the '70s and the British folk revival," he says. "At that time, metal and folk music were these sort of weird bastard cousins, walking around hand in hand."

Similarly smitten should be an artist's work to their influences, says Meloy, no matter the expected reception. "Anybody writing songs and making music should be making music that is, in some way, the sum total of their record collection," he says. "By and large, I feel like I'm making the music that I want to make. I hope we can continue doing that."



The Decemberists' *Hazards of Love* was a concept album, initially intended as a stage musical.

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Billboard's top pop albums

1. Horehound, The Dead Weather; 2. The Essential Michael Jackson, Michael Jackson; 3. Number Ones, Michael Jackson; 4. Jersey Boys, Soundtracks and Original Casts; 5. Electric Dirt, Levon Helm. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Nutini blends folk, reggae in latest album Sunny Side Up

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada



Being a young musician has its challenges. One thing 22-year-old Paolo Nutini is trying to come to grips with is how irrelevant some of his first album, which he wrote when he was a teenager, seems today.

"I was singing songs I'd never sing about in that way now," says the Scottish-born musician, whose debut, *Three Streets*, was a huge hit in 2006. "There are instances where I won't play a song, because I don't really feel it anymore."

These days the husky-voiced troubadour is feeling the reggae vibes. His sophomore disc, *Sunny Side Up*, kicks off with a heavy dose of 2 Tone-style reggae (unofficial Specials trombonist Rico Rodriguez plays on the song), and there are upstroke sounds elsewhere on the record.

"Jamaican music is my favourite," says the guitarist. "It's not like I wanted to make a reggae record, it's just how the song came out."

Nutini is not the next Bob Marley, though. Most of his record dabbles in folk, laidback Jack Johnson-like melodies and some light Simon and Garfunkel-ish sounds. While the music is definitely eclectic, the one thing most of the tunes have in common is that they're upbeat and happy, as the album's moniker suggests.

"I'm pretty happy," says Nutini. "If you're happy and comfortable then write about it. Obviously there are things going on in the world, but I figured I better make songs that I'm going to like playing."

It's a good thing that the songwriter is in a good, emotional place, because many young stars his age have trouble dealing with fame. Nutini,

however, hasn't fallen into the trap of rock 'n' roll excess like so many of his peers.

"That stuff is always there — everyone says to go out with the band and get drunk every night, but that's so cliché. And I want to avoid being a cliché," he says. "I'm not made to consume so much alcohol. I don't really get the challenge."

With *Sunny Side Up* topping the charts in the U.K. and Ireland, it may get increasingly more difficult for Nutini not to get caught up in the fast life, but it helps that the pressure of being a young star isn't getting to him too much.

"I don't really think about age," he says. "The pressure is that you're just another guy in the queue. But I'm lucky to be in the queue in the first place."



"If you're happy and comfortable then write about it. Obviously there are things going on in the world, but I figured I better make songs that I'm going to like playing."

Paolo Nutini

Great books to dive into this summer

SoundCheck

Alan Cross



metronews.ca/soundcheck

For most people across the country, this has been a dreary summer. Where I live, we've had exactly one day where the temperature has reached 30 C. New York had its coldest June since 1958. And a recent web posting from an Accu-Weather meteorologist (<http://bit.ly/pmkYy>) cites more than 3,000 low-temperature records across North America in July.

This all explains why I'm off to Cuba tomorrow in search of some sun. I also need a week to catch up on my reading in preparation for the fall season of my radio show, *The Ongoing History of New Music*.

If you have some vacation time coming and you're looking for a few books on music, here are a few suggestions:

Perfecting Sound Fore-

er: An Aural History of Recorded Music by Greg Milner (Faber and Faber): Not so much a history of recorded music, but a history of how we've tried to capture music perfectly. It's filled with anecdotes and fun history. I learned a lot. My favourite music book of the year so far.

Appetite for Self-Destruction: The Spectacular Crash of the Record Industry in the Digital Age by Steve Knopper (Faber and Faber): A breezy look at how the record industry was blindsided by Napster and everything that came after. Some excellent insight into various mistakes, miscalculations and "what if" scenarios.

Dirty Little Secrets of the Record Business: Why So Much Music You Hear Sucks by Hank Bordowitz (Chicago Review Press): An unabashedly biased

look at the state of the American music industry. Bombastic in places and idealistic to the point of naïveté in others, but an interesting insider's peek into the business.

Ripped: How the Wired Generation Revolutionized Music by Greg Kot (Scribner): Just like the title says: How the music consumer went from paying \$17.99 for a CD to paying nothing at all in just ten years.

Unleashed: The Story of Tool by Joel McIver (Omnibus Press): With *Tool*, it's always been very difficult to separate the fact from the fiction and the truth from the mythology. McIver does his best with the first-ever biography of one of rock's most enig-

matic bands.

Woodstock Vision: The Spirit of a Generation by Elliott Landy (Backbeat Books): With the 40th anniversary of Woodstock coming up in three weeks, this reissued coffee table book is a nice piece of nostalgia.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

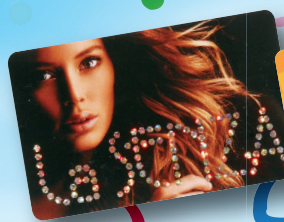
TOP 10 RINGTONES

- 1 I Gotta Feeling Black Eyed Peas
- 2 I Know You Want Me Pitbull
- 3 Fire Burning Sean Kingston
- 4 Boom Boom Pow Black Eyed Peas
- 5 Birthday Sex Jeremih
- 6 One Time Justin Bieber
- 7 Day N Nite Kid Cudi
- 8 Thriller Michael Jackson
- 9 Knock You Down Keri Hilson
- 10 Papazzzi Lady Gaga

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Pink is the latest star confirmed to perform at MTV's Video Music Awards, taking place Sept. 13 at locations around New York City, including Radio City Music Hall. **PEOPLE.COM**

Television

Mixing kissing with spaceships

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Melrose Space. Grey's Anatomy. Lost ... In Space. For a TV show that has yet to air, Defying Gravity has a lot of nicknames. So what's it really about?

"It plays like a soap opera at times and like an action film at times and then its sci-fi," explains Defying Gravity star Ron Livingston (Sex In The City,

Office Space). "It wasn't all kissing and it wasn't all spaceships. There's kissing and spaceships."

More simply put, Defying Gravity was created by James Parriott (Grey's Anatomy) and concerns the future adventures of eight astronauts on a six-year mission to explore the nearest planets.

The show will follow them on the mission, while flashing back — a la Lost — to their training.

There's also a little alien mystery thrown in, plus frequent side trips into the inter-relationships between the crew members.

Livingston likens it to Battlestar Galactica, which

eventually became known as much for being a good drama, as a good sci-fi yarn.

"They (the producers) wanted to do a show that could embrace the grand scale — the epic proportions that space gives you," says Livingston. "But also be about the little mundane things — like how to fix your hair in zero gravity."

Actress Laura Harris (24,

Dead Like Me), who plays the dedicated, flighty scientist Barnes, says she was immediately sold on doing the show.

"It was totally unique and very exciting. The possibilities for plots were infinite."

Shot in Vancouver, Defying Gravity is a cross-border co-production between

ABC and CTV. For The Surrey-raised Harris, it's a bit of a homecoming, albeit not the first.

Harris, who has been acting since she was five, cut her creative teeth on a bevy of sci-fi vehicles shot in Canada over the years, including The X-Files, Stargate, and The Dead Zone.

Defying Gravity
launches Sunday
on CTV/ABC.



Defying Gravity stars Laura Harris, left, and Ron Livingston.

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	ABC News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Surviving Sub.	Goode Family	According-Jim	According-Jim	20/20
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wild Roses (DVS)	Mr. Deeds * (2002, Comedy)	Adam Sandler			Atlantis
11	11	11	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	Air Force	Laughs	Ghost Whisperer		CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour
32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Patriots	Entertainment	The Unit		(10:02) Flashpoint		NUMB3RS
6	6	6	CHIF	ET Canada	ET Canada	NUMB3RS (HDTV)		Ghost Whisperer		Mental "Do Over" (N)		News Final (N)
9	9	9	CJCH	Corner Gas	Hollywood	Criminal Minds		Ghost Whisperer		(10:02) Castle		News
36	36	36	FOX	Deal-No Deal	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Mental "Do Over" (N)		Fox First
12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Southland "Pilot"		Dateline NBC		
55	55	55	SCOR	(6) HSR		World Poker Crown		WWE SmackDown!				Soccer
53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	CFL Pregame	CFL Football BC	Lions at Hamilton Tiger-Cats. (HDTV) (Live)				
16	16	16	A&E	The First 48		CSI: Miami "Cop Killer"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
70	70	70	APTN	APT National News (N)		Chiefs-Champ		Spirit		Tribal Treks		Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001, Adventure)
37	37	37	BRVO	Wind at My Back		Pretty Bloody Women		Bravo! Fact		Books-Film		Wordplay *** (2006, Documentary)
49	49	49	COM	Laughs	Comedy Now	Air Force	Good Morning	Corner Gas		VIP		The Simpsons South Park
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room- Wolf Blitz		Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Canada's Worst Handyman		American Loggers		Ancient World
34	34	34	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		House	Property	House		Ext Living	Location, Loc.	House
46	46	46	HIST	Legends	Legends	NCIS		Jurassic Fight Club		Legends		Ice Road Truck
17	17	17	MM	Springbreak.09		One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Video on Trial	Stuck on You ** (2003, Comedy)		
206	206	206	PIX	(6:50) Anaconda (1997, Suspense)		(8:20) Taken *		Passenger 57 ** (1992, Action)				
39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		The Best Years (DVS)		Kenny-Spenny	Kenny-Spenny	Trailer Park
40	40	40	SLICE	Chic Couples	Skin Deep	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part		Til Debt-Part		Til Debt-Part
21	21	21	TLC	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress		What Not to Wear (N)		Dress
22	22	22	W	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Style by Jury	Friends	Most Haunted Midsummer		Beauty Shop ** (2005, Comedy)		
27	27	27	YTV	The Next Star 2 (N)		What a Girl Wants * (2003, Comedy-Drama)		Prank Patrol		Prank Patrol		Family Biz

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	ABC News	Legend of the Seeker		Red Eye *** (2005, Suspense)	Rachel McAdams			Sexy Money
7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Mindstorm * (2001, Drama)	Antonio Sabato Jr. (DVS)	Chasing Wild Horses		Da Vinci's City Hall (HDTV)		Sexy Money
11	11	11	CBC	Sat. Report	Marketplace	The Nature of Things		The Week the Women Went		NUMB3RS (HDTV)		Intelligence
32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	CBS News	Entertainment Tonight		Cold Case (HDTV)		Doc		48 Hr. Mystery
6	6	6	CHIF	Doc "Happy Trails"		Doc		Doc		Law & Order: SVU		News Final (N)
9	9	9	CJCH	W-FIVE (DVS)		Double Frame (2001, Suspense)	Daniel Baldwin. (DVS)	Cops	Cops	America's Most Wanted		Fox First
36	36	36	FOX	MLB Baseball		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cops	Cops	Face the Ace (N)		Law/Ord SVU
12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Access Hollywood (N)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		MMA Show	Final Score	Soccer
55	55	55	SCOR	MMA Show	Footy Show	WWE Vintage Collection		Schwab	Schwab	CFL Football: Roughriders at Stampeders		
53	53	53	TSN	NASCAR Racing: Nationwide Series		SportsCentre		Boxing	CFL Pregame	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
16	16	16	A&E	(5) The Matrix (1999)		Arbor Live		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami
70	70	70	APTN	Cooking	MYTV	Arbor Live		The Mix	Music Speaks	Mask *** (1985, Biography)	Eric Stoltz.	Alexander
37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Live at the Rehearsal Hall		Spectacle: Elvis		Croupier *** (1998, Suspense)		
49	49	49	COM	VIP	22 Minutes	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	VIP	The Simpsons	South Park	Zach
18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room- Wolf Blitz		Newsroom		CNN & Essence: Reclaiming the		Dream Dynamic Issues. (N)		Newsroom
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	Qubit (N)	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Destroyed	Time Warp	Deadliest Catch		Destroyed
34	34	34	HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Colin & Justin's Home Heist		SarahCottage	HGTV's Top	HGTV Showdown		Makeover
46	46	46	HIST	Lost Inventions		Doomed-Karluk		Betrayal!		American History X (1998, Drama)		
17	17	17	MM	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Stuck on You ** (2003, Comedy)	Matt Damon.	MuchMusic Countdown		Angel Eyes ** (2001, Drama)		
206	206	206	PIX	(6) About Last Night...		The Devil's Own *** (1997, Suspense)	Brad Pitt	Angel Eyes ** (2001, Drama)				
39	39	39	SHOW	(5) The Last Templar * (2009, Adventure)		Time and Again (2007, Drama)	Brooke Burns.					
40	40	40	SLICE	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	Real Housewives OC		Real Housewives OC		The Millionaire Matchmaker		Bulging Brides
21	21	21	TLC	The New Detectives		The New Detectives		Dateline: Real Life Mysteries		Dateline: Real Life Mysteries		48 Hours
22	22	22	W	Grocery	Bag	Grocery Bag	Grocery	Grocery Bag	Grocery	You, Me and Dupree ** (2006, Comedy)		
27	27	27	YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Survive This	Adrenaline	In Real Life		Prank Patrol

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
31	31	31	ABC	News Center	ABC News	Funniest Home Videos		Ty's Great British Adventure		Defying Gravity (N)		Smallville
7	7	7	ASN	America's Got Talent		Funniest Home Videos		Defying Gravity "Pilot: Natural Selection" (N)		CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		Doctor Who
11	11	11	CBC	Heartland (DVS)		Wild Hogs * (2007, Comedy)	Tim Allen.	Big Brother 11 (N)		Cold Case (HDTV)		Without Trace
32	32	32	CBS	Evening News	WBZ News (N)	60 Minutes (HDTV)		Big Brother 11 (N)		Family Guy	The Simpsons	News Final (N)
6	6	6	CHIF	16:9 Picture	American Dad	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Defying Gravity "Pilot: Natural Selection" (N)		Family Guy	The Simpsons	News
9	9	9	CJCH	Cold Case (HDTV)		Merlin "Excalibur" (N)		The Simpsons		The Storm (2009, Suspense)		Fox First
36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case		"Til Death	American Dad	Merlin "Excalibur" (N)		Final Score	Final Score	Poker
12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Dateline NBC		BodogFight		The Simpsons		SportsCentre
55	55	55	SCOR	Score Update	Facts-Fishing	The WWE Experience		Boxing Friday Night Fights. (HDTV)		Simmons	Simmons	Simmons
53	53	53	TSN	NASCAR Race	SportsCentre	WEC WreckCase (N)		Gene Simmons		Return to Lonesome Dove (Part 1 of 3)		Rescue Me
16	16	16	A&E	Simmons		The Mix	Music Speaks	Arbor Live		Spy Game ** (2001, Suspense)		Style-Famous
70	70	70	APTN	New Cance	MYTV	The Mix		Portraits of War		The Simpsons	South Park	The Office (N)
37	37	37	BRVO	Spectacle: Elvis		Arts & Minds	Bravo! Fact	Laughs	VIP			
49	49	49	COM	VIP	22 Minutes	Just for Laughs		CNN & Essence: Reclaiming the		Dream Dynamic Issues.		Newsroom
18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		MythBusters		My First Place	Buy Me	Blood in the Water (N)		Hide Potential
38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	House	House	Cities of the Underworld		Extreme Makeover: Home		Gangs of New York *** (2002)
34	34	34	HGTV	Holmes in New Orleans		Jurassic Fight Club		So You Think You Can Dance Top six.		So You Think You Can Dance		Dance Crew
46	46	46	HIST	Jurassic Fight Club		So You Think You Can Dance Top six.		(8:10) Devil in a Blue Dress ** (1995, Mystery)		Air Force One *** (1997, Suspense)		
17	17	17	MM	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	The Guard "Waheguru"		Love Sick: Secrets of a Sex Addict (2008, Docudrama)		Rescue Me		Style-Famous
206	206	206	PIX	(6:15) Mr. Baseball		Instant Beauty Pageant		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Real Housewives NYC		Jon & Kate
39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Jon & Kate Plus 8		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	How I Married
40	40	40	SLICE	X-Weighted		Grocery Bag	Style by Jury	The Interrogation of Michael Crowe	(2002, Docudrama)	In Real Life		Adrenaline
21	21	21	TLC	Cake Boss	Jon & Kate			Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol			
22	22	22	W	You, Dupree		Garfield: A Tail of Two Kitties ** (2006, Comedy)						
27	27	27	YTV									

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Keaton gets sexual in new HBO comedy

FEMINIST COMEDY Diane Keaton is venturing into series television with a half-hour comedy at HBO.

Written by Marti Noxon, the untitled project stars the Oscar winner as a feminist icon who attempts to reignite the movement by starting a sexually explicit magazine for women.

The comedy hails from Grady Twins Prods., a production company recently launched by Noxon and Dawn Parouse. Noxon, Parouse and Keaton are executive producing.

"We've come a long way since the Kinsey report; women are more sexual now," said Noxon, referring to Alfred Kinsey's controversial 1953 report Sexual Behavior in the Human Female.

Added Parouse: "There seems to be a new evolution of what women are sexually. Women are acting more like men sexually."

Keaton has played feminist icons before: She portrayed journalist Louise Bryant in the 1981 film Reds and aviator Amelia Earhart in the 1994 telefilm Amelia Earhart: The Final Flight.

REUTERS

Burn Notice gets another season

USA's summer hits *Burn Notice* and *Royal Pains* have both been picked up for additional seasons, according to The Hollywood Reporter. The pickups follow on the heels of sizzling numbers for both series. TVGUIDE.COM

Going Out**Metro's 7th Heaven:** Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Jillian Harris & Ed Swiderski
COUPLE The first-ever Canadian star of *The Bachelor* made her pick this week amid much media hoopla and we can already hear wedding bells. If *People* magazine is to be believed, the Vancouver-based restaurant designer and the tech consultant from Chicago can't seem to get enough of each other and are planning to tie the knot soon.



2 JK Wedding Entrance
VIRAL VIDEO Walking down the aisle will never be the same. In this video, which has racked up 11 million hits on YouTube so far, guests at the wedding of Jill Peterson and Kevin Heinz opt for a little funky dance to the beat of Chris Brown's *Forever*. The rest, as they say, is viral video history. Recently, the *Today Show* flew the Minnesota couple and their friends to New York to re-create the event outside Rockefeller Center.

3 Life on Mars (U.K. Version)
DVD Never mind the cancelled ABC series. Here's the original thing, available on DVD in North America for the first time. The acclaimed BBC cop-meets-sci-fi drama revolves around a Manchester investigator who gets into a car crash and apparently winds up in '70s Britain (is he dead or is he dreaming?).



4 Tin Man
SHOW Somewhere over the rainbow lies a darker side of Oz and that's where a modernized Dorothy (Zooey Deschanel) and pals head to in this TV remake of the L. Frank Baum classic. The series premieres tomorrow on Space.

5 Funny People
FILM Will Judd Apatow's incredible run of hit comedies (*The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*) finally end? Movie forums are abuzz with anticipation about the director/producer's new dramedy on the lives of comedians. The nearly three-hour long film stars Adam Sandler and Seth Rogen (pictured).



6 Anjulie Persaud
ARTIST Her first video *Boom* has been blogged about by Kanye West and is getting major airplay on MTV. Already hailed as the new Nelly Furtado, the Oakville, Ont.-born songstress of Guyanese origin is the latest buzz girl of Canadian pop and expectations are sky high for her self-titled album, which comes out next week.

7 Twenties Girl: Sophie Kinsella
BOOK The chic-lit queen tries a light-hearted whodunit this time around. The story revolves around a young Brit named Lara Lington, her great-aunt Sadie and a missing necklace. But it isn't all detective work. There's plenty of laughter and uplifting moments to remind readers why they love the Shopaholic author in the first place.

**Watchmen tops video charts**

FILM Blu-ray Discs are showing some real clout. *Watchmen* shot to the top of the national home video sales and rental charts its first week in stores, with 36 per cent of the total unit sales for the superhero comic adaptation coming from the high-definition edition. Coroline snagged the No. 2 spot on all three charts – the Nielsen VideoScan DVD and Blu-ray Disc sales charts, and trade publication *Home Media Magazine's* rental chart. A solid 18 per cent of the cartoon's unit sales came from Blu-ray Discs, a surprisingly strong showing that indicates the format is fast moving out of the early adopter phase and into the mainstream. The Nicolas Cage drama *Knowing* placed third.

REUTERS

Mix of Six**Canadian Forces Halifax Rock Fest**

When: Sunday. Gates open at 2 p.m.

Where: Garrison Grounds, Citadel Hill

Another major musical event hits Halifax as Chick-enfoot headlines a show that also includes Our Lady Peace, Finger 11 and Sloan. General admission tickets are \$75.

Ninth annual alfresco filmFesto presents Harold and Maude

When: Friday. Gates open at 8 p.m. with show time at dusk

Where: Halifax Waterfront boardwalk, in front of the Electropolis building
Bring your family to watch this famous movie on an in-

flatable screen attached to the back of a building. Admission is \$5, with a rain date set for Saturday.

Natal Day Fireworks

When: Saturday, 10 p.m.

Where: Originate from a barge in the Halifax Harbour. Thousands will line both sides of the harbour for the fireworks celebrating our

municipality. The rain date is Sunday at 10 p.m.

MacPass Mile

When: Sunday, 9 to 11 a.m.

Where: Macdonald Bridge
Competitors young and old run across this bridge between Dartmouth and Halifax in a race to the finish line. The cutoff for registration is Friday at noon.

Nova Scotia In-Water Boat Show

When: Friday to Sunday
Where: Bishop's Landing, Lower Water Street

The third annual event consists of Maritime-built boats featuring pleasure boats, fishing boats, and workboats. Admission is \$10 with children 12-and-under free.

Jon Dore

When: Friday and Saturday, 8:30 p.m.

Where: Westin Nova Scotia
Yuk Yuk's presents one of Canada's top comics as Dore has his own show on *The Comedy Network*. The opening act is Parris Parker with tickets costing \$18. Visit thewestinnovascotian.com.

Sway magazine thriving

MAUREEN LITTLEJOHN
for Metro Canada

Economic realities have forced many publishers to downsize, but Toronto, Ont.'s Sway magazine is bucking the trend.

Geared towards a black audience, the glossy lifestyle quarterly is spreading its wings and going national. This month it is available in 150 stores across the country, including Chapters and Indigo locations.

"We've seen our revenues go up by 30 per cent in the last year and we'd like to make the magazine accessible to the whole country," says Alan Vernon, Sway's associate publisher and editorial director.



Sway magazine is a glossy lifestyle quarterly aimed at the country's black population.

"There are 800,000 black people in the country. Half of that number is in Toronto, half is not. We want to raise our brand visibility outside the GTA."

Vernon says the magazine, free in Toronto, will be sold for \$4.95 outside the city and adds, "We'll make a few thousand copies available across the country, around 20 copies per store."

Although the majority of the magazine's 50,000 circulation remains in the GTA, content is now more national in scope, says Vernon. "Our current

issue has political stories on topics such as why Canada is getting out of Africa and why paleness of skin colour has been used as a measure of black beauty. Our content is inspirational and positive, not fluffy."

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Robert Knepper has already been promoted to series regular status on NBC's *Heroes*, on which he'll make his debut this fall. Knepper was originally signed for six episodes, and has so far appeared in every episode, says the Hollywood Reporter. TVGUIDE.COM

Entertainment

Avril ready to 'mellow out and sing'

Get ready to hear a softer side of Avril Lavigne.

The Canadian pop singer tells *Billboard.com* that she's taking a more serious, stripped-down approach to her fourth studio album, tentatively slated for a November release on RCA.

"A lot of the songs are mainly the acoustic and my vocal," says Lavigne of the as-yet-untitled project. "It's a lot different from anything I've done before. It's not a pop-rock record. This is more about emotion and feeling."

Lavigne's husband (and Sum 41 frontman) Deryck Whibley produced eight of the album's projected 12

"It's not a pop-rock record. This is more about emotion and feeling."

Avril Lavigne, on her next album

tracks, half of which she wrote by her herself. For the other half, she's been working with former bandmate Evan Taubenfeld and songwriter/producer Butch Walker, who co-penned her 2004 single *My Happy Ending*.

"I'm kind of just keeping it in the family with all of my close friends," says Lavigne, whose last album,

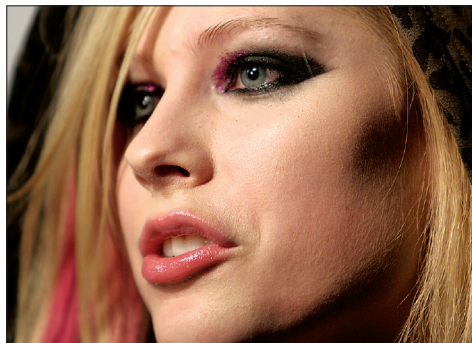
2007's *The Best Damn Thing*, has sold 1.6 million copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

"I started this record off really slow, just writing songs at home on my piano. I didn't work with a ton of people this time."

The album's first single hasn't been confirmed, but the 25-year-old Lavigne says it could "possibly" be a song that emerged from the TV commercial for her new Black Star fragrance, which will go on sale in the U.S. this fall.

"It's the first song that I recorded for this record," she says. "It's kind of like a lullaby."

The ethereal, piano-dri-



Avril Lavigne is currently working on her fourth studio album.

ven chorus originally was written just for the ad, but Lavigne has since decided to turn it into a full record-

ing.

Lavigne is also keeping busy these days with *Abbey Dawn*, a juniors

clothing line that sells at Kohl's stores in the U.S. She will launch the line in Canada next month.

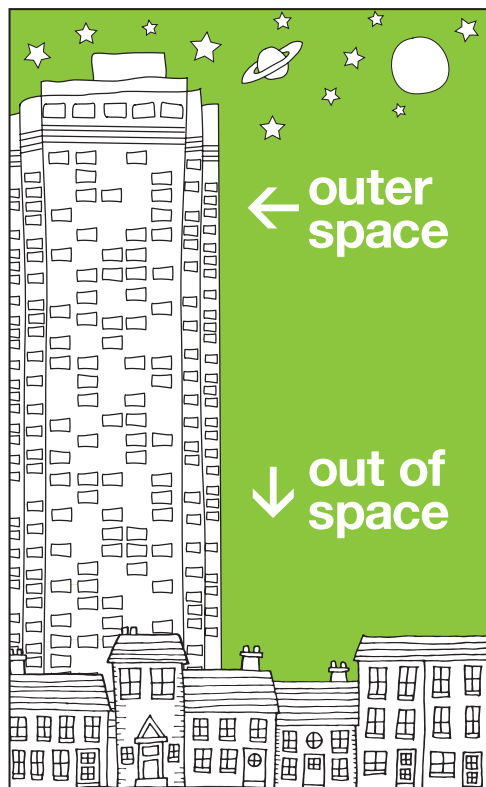
For now, though, Lavigne's primary focus remains her music. She expects to tour North America in February, and she won't be bringing any backup dancers on the road this time. Instead, she'd like to keep the vibe of her live shows similar to that of the album.

"I want to do a cool theater tour in America because I feel it will really suit this record," she says.

"I'm ready to go out there and just mellow out and sing." **REUTERS**

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Foxx, Latifah hook up for Valentine's Day

Jamie Foxx and Queen Latifah have joined the all-star cast of the romantic comedy Valentine's Day. To name just a few, the ensemble cast already includes Julia Roberts, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Alba, Jessica Biel and Jennifer Garner. **REUTERS**

Entertainment**Night Mary nabbed for big screen**

ADAPTION Animal Logic, a digital design and production company, has picked up film rights to the graphic novel Night Mary, a mystery/horror comic created by Rick Remender and Kieron Dwyer.

The story follows teenager Mary Specter, a lucid dreamer who enters the nightmares of disturbed patients at her father's sleep disorder clinic to try to help them. When one patient turns out to be a serial killer, nightmare and waking reality blend in dangerous ways.

REUTERS**U.S. films shine in Venice**

Michael Moore's documentary on the global financial crisis, Capitalism: A Love Story, will vie for the top prize at this year's Venice film festival.

The Oscar winner's doc is one of six U.S. movies in the main competition at the world's oldest film festival, a sign U.S. film-making is back in business after last year's problems, according to organizers.

"It seemed that the writers' strike, the financial difficulties had slammed the brakes on the most creative part of American cinema, but the selection has never been so great," said festival director Marco Mueller as he unveiled the program of the Sept 2-12

Toy Story

• At the festival there will be a career award for John Lasseter and his fellow Pixar directors for their animation blockbusters. To mark the award, new 3D versions of Toy Story and Toy Story 2 will screen at the festival.

event.

Also up for the Golden Lion are Werner Herzog's remake of Bad Lieutenant, former Gucci designer Tom Ford's directorial debut A Single Man and John Hillcoat's The Road, an adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's bestseller starring Viggo Mortensen and Charlize

Theron.

One title among the 24 films in the official contest has yet to be unveiled.

Highlights out of competition include Steven Soderbergh's The Informant!, with Matt Damon as the whistle-blower in an agri-business powerhouse, and Joe Dante's 3-D horror The Hole.

George Clooney, star of last year's opening film by the Coen brothers, will be back on the Lido in Grant Heslov's satirical drama The Men Who Stare at Goats.

Italy and France will also loom large over Venice with four films each in the main lineup, including Jaco van Dormael's Mr No-

**Michael Moore**

body and Giuseppe Tornatore's epic drama Baaria, the first Italian movie to open the festival in two decades.

The heavy U.S. presence promises a steady flow of Hollywood stars on the Lido red carpet, unlike last year.

REUTERS**Rivers vs. Leno**

HARSH WORDS Comedienne Joan Rivers ripped Jay Leno when asked about the prospects of his upcoming 10 p.m. weekday talk show on NBC.

"I think it's brilliant that Leno is at 10 p.m., because America can get bored more easily and go to sleep earlier," Rivers told reporters at the Television Critics Association confab Wednesday.

Crowe eyes remake of french thriller

MOVIE Russell Crowe is in final negotiations to star in Paul Haggis' next film, The Next Three Days. It's a remake of the 2008 French film Pour Elle.

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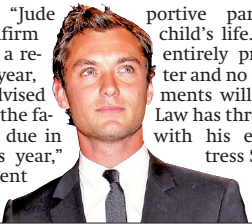
Tween idol Zac Efron, known more for his dancing and singing skills than for risking life and limb, took the plunge while bungee-jumping for the first time in Vancouver on Saturday, people.com reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Zac takes the plunge in B.C.

Celebrity Buzz

Four times a father for Jude

DAD AGAIN Jude Law is set to become a father for the fourth time, his rep confirmed to Entertainment Weekly. "Jude Law can confirm that, following a relationship last year, he has been advised that he is to be the father of a child due in the fall of this year," the statement reads.



METRO WORLD NEWS

"Mr. Law is no longer in a relationship with the individual concerned but he intends to be a fully supportive part of the child's life. This is an entirely private matter and no other statements will be made." Law has three children with his ex-wife, actress Sadie Frost.

Madonna's right to bear arms

REBUTTAL Madonna's rep has dismissed a controversial snapshot of the pop star with muscular limbs and zero fat on them as a fake, popeater.com reports.

The photo, taken on July 26, raised questions about whether Madonna is over-exercising.

"Madonna's



METRO NEWS SERVICES

arms in the most recent photos have absolutely been altered by Photoshop or some other means," the rep told gossipcop.com on Wednesday. "Her arms do not look like that in real life."

Kim 'doing OK' after breakup

RECOVERING Kim Kardashian says she's "doing OK" after splitting from beau Reggie Bush earlier this week, usmagazine.com reports.

"I just want to let you all know that I truly appreciate all the love and support I've been receiving over the last 48 hours," Kardashian wrote on her blog.

"I just want



METRO NEWS SERVICES

you all to know I'm doing okay, and I really appreciate your support," she went on. "I've been reading all your comments and I really have the best fans ever! I love you guys!"

On Monday, Kardashian's rep confirmed to usmagazine.com the couple called it quits.

George has racy new fling

DATING George Clooney has a new squeeze with a bit of a past, according to the Daily Mirror.

The actor has reportedly been spending quality time with Italian model Elisabetta Canalis, who has a history of



METRO WORLD NEWS

giving lap dances. The paper claims to have found several clips of Canalis "topless and flashing her naked bum."

A little bit of country drama

DENIAL Country singer Kenny Chesney is blasting a tabloid report that he and Jessica Simpson flirted in front of Tony Romo at a July 4 party just days before the couple's breakup, people.com reports.

"Tony's a friend, and I wouldn't flirt with a buddy's girlfriend," Chesney told People. "More importantly, Jessica was just being sweet and there was nothing else to it. It's not funny. There were no

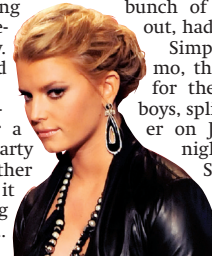
problems. Everybody got along great. After the party, everybody went their own way and nobody thought anything more about it. Period. End of story.

"If a girl and her boyfriend can't go to someone's house for a Fourth of July party and talk to the other guests without it turning into a big nightmare ...

then I feel really sorry for Jessica and Tony, who're both really nice people," Chesney said. "I talked to a bunch of guests, hung out, had a good time."

Simpson and Romo, the quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys, split five days later on July 9 — the night before Simpson's 29th birthday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Katherine gets custody of MJ's kids

FINALLY SETTLED The question of who gets custody of Michael Jackson's three kids has been answered: They're going with their grandmother, Katherine Jackson, her lawyer told the CBS Early Show yesterday.



L. Londell McMillan said that after several weeks of negotiations, Katherine reached a deal with Debbie Rowe, the biological mother of the

older two children, which gives Rowe visitation rights but no financial compensation.

"This is not a money deal," McMillan said. "There's no situation better for these children than to be raised and reared under the care of Mrs. Jackson."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Rachelle blindsided by recasting?

OFF-SET DRAMA Things are getting ugly between the producers of the Twilight movies and Montreal actress Rachelle Lefevre, who will be replaced by Bryce Dallas Howard in the third film due to a conflict in Lefevre's schedule.

"I was stunned by Summit's decision to recast the role of Victoria for

Eclipse," Lefevre said of the studio behind the movies, according to Entertainment Weekly. "I turned down several other film opportunities."

But Summit Entertainment

is striking back, telling the magazine, "Ms. Lefevre's commitment to the other project — which she chose to withhold from Summit until the last possible moment — makes her unfortunately unavailable to perform the role of Victoria."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Beckham kids: Daddy, why the undies?

FAMILY MATTERS David Beckham — struggle to understand why their father is happy to pose in the raunchy Armani pictures wearing only tight, white underwear.

The soccer star's sons — Brooklyn, Romeo and Cruz, his children with wife Victoria



David said: "When they first saw them, they were like, 'Daddy, why are you in your under-

wear so everyone can see?' They don't mind. If they were older they'd be embarrassed, maybe."

The 34-year-old athlete also said he named his youngest son after his friend Tom Cruise, noting that the actor was one of the first people they spoke to after welcoming Cruz into the world.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mischa is moving too quickly: Pal

CONCERN Friends are worried that actress Mischa Barton is jumping into work on her new TV series, The Beautiful Life, too quickly after her recent hospitalization.

"Mischa needs more aggressive treatment over a long period of time," a friend told Gatecrasher. "It's only been a matter of days since she was released from the hospital, and I think she definitely wasn't there long enough."

"She needs to be very cautious — she's at a very big risk. I personally think it's a bad idea to go back this quickly, given her past history with substance abuse."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Mel confronts fake fan at club

ARGUMENT Mel Gibson got into it with a Life & Style reporter posing as a fan at the opening of a new L.A. nightclub recently. While in the VIP section with his pregnant girlfriend, Oksana Grigorieva, the reporter tried to snap a picture of the actor,

according to Hollyscoop. When security stepped in and deleted the picture, the reporter sent over a male friend to try again. "Mel approached the guy who tried to take his picture and ripped his shirt," a source said.

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Today
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Saturday
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23° / 17°

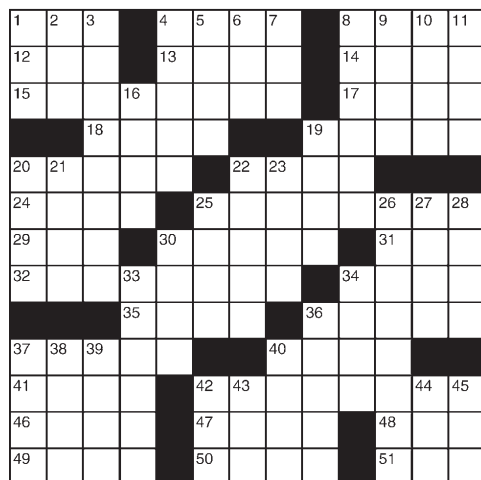


Sunday
Showers
20° / 17°



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entertainment 27

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ACROSS

1 Completely
4 Tarot cards' determination
8 Pack away
12 Vast expanse
13 Finished
14 One of the Three Bears
15 Optimistic
17 Wishes otherwise
18 Midas' desire
19 Snag
20 Basilica areas
22 Erstwhile ugly duckling
24 Men
25 Bits of trickery
29 Grecian vessel
30 Michael of tennis
31 Exist
32 GOP symbol
34 Recognized
35 Safecracker
36 Theater boxes
37 Bank structure
40 Hardy cabbage
41 Roughly
42 Pocket Books logo

46 Adolescent
47 Sandwich cookie
48 Possess
49 They're prominent on 32-Across
50 Summer desserts
51 Born

DOWN

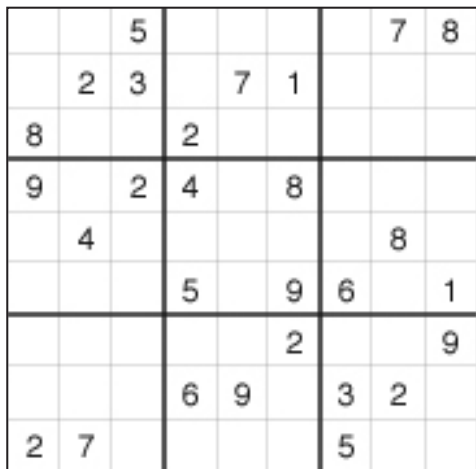
1 Fool
2 Meadow
3 "Auld —"
4 Basketball nos
5 Eager
6 X rating?
7 Earlier than
8 Leap
9 Tense
10 Cartel acronym
11 Lave
16 "And so it —"
19 Reagan Cabinet member
20 Chills and fever
21 Knitting stitch
22 Word on the street?

23 Departed
25 Carpet type
26 Parasite
27 Genealogy chart
28 Fixes a seam
30 Guitarist
33 Traffic cones
34 Caffeine-rich nut
36 Former capital of Nigeria
37 Cast a ballot
38 Vicinity
39 AOL client, e.g.
40 Dandling site
42 Japanese pond carp
43 Joan of —
44 Have bills
45 Inseparable

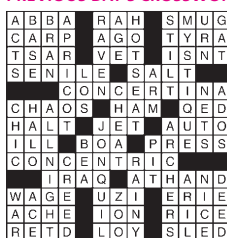
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	2	4	8	7	3	9	1	5
7	9	5	2	6	1	4	3	8
8	3	1	4	5	9	6	2	7
3	6	2	1	8	5	7	4	9
9	1	7	6	4	2	5	8	3
5	4	8	3	9	7	2	6	1
1	7	6	5	2	8	3	9	4
2	8	9	7	3	4	1	5	6
4	5	3	9	1	6	8	7	2



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20

Your instincts can usually be trusted to point you in the right direction, but today they may not be quite so reliable, so think twice.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23

You can expect some kind of bonus or reward today, but it does not have to be of a financial nature. Most likely you will be granted an insight.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21

A colleague will fall out of favor on the work front today, leaving the way clear for you to step in and move up the ladder. It's your big chance!

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22

The more you want to follow a certain course of action, the more others will try to convince you to do something different.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21

By all means push ahead with your plans today, but bear in mind that while Mercury opposes Neptune, some of those plans may be questionable.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21

It will pay you to be nice to people today, not least because you will need their help later on. And while you're at it, why not change your perspective?

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22

You'll be offered some kind of deal, and it will be tempting to say the least, but you must not agree to do anything that goes against your principles.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20

Stick to what you know best and don't stray into areas where your understanding is limited. What are you passionate about?

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23

A business associate will try to convince you that what they are selling is worth more than you are willing to pay. Don't fall for it.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18

Raise your sights as high as you can and believe that you can create something meaningful and magnificent in the world. You have a special talent.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22

You are well aware of your shortcomings but you are even more aware that you have done many things to be proud of. Feel good about yourself.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20

Everything around you may be in flux at the moment, but you are a picture of perfect calm. Why change for the sake of change?

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BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

- Wagers with NY's Citi Field team (1)
- Catch sight of a trio (1)
- Tidy set of hotel rooms (1)
- Blonder risk or challenge-taker (2)
- Actress Field's bowling lanes (2)
- Shakespeare theatre's disco lights (1)
- Alaskan island chain air fouling (3)

ANSWERS: 1. SLUGGERS 2. SEE THREE 3. NEAT SLEET 4. FAIRER DARTER 5. SASSY ATHLETES 6. SHAKESPEARE 7. ALBERTA PARSLEY 8. NORTON

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